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Japan

Japan: Tokyo, Washington Remain Split Over Chip, Film Issues

OW1904131296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 19 KYODO — Japanese and U.S. negotiators Friday [19 April] failed to iron out differences over semiconductor and photo film trade between the two countries, officials familiar with the negotiations said.

During the talks in Kobe, Japanese negotiators reiterated their position that the agreement on chip trade between the Japanese and U.S. Governments is no longer necessary, the officials said.

U.S. negotiators were quoted as saying that the accord, which is due to expire at the end of July, should be renewed because foreign-made computer chips have yet to be adopted to a satisfactory level by Japanese makers of household computer games and automobile parts.

On U.S. demand for wider foreign access to the Japanese photo film market, sparked by a complaint by the U.S. film giant Eastman Kodak Co. against its Japanese counterpart Fuji Photo Film Co., Japanese negotiators said the issue should be left to the fair trade commission, while the U.S. side maintained that the Japanese government should be involved in settling the issue, according to the officials.

After the meeting, Yoshihiro Sakamoto, vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said Japan has no intention to compromise because the positions of the two countries were confirmed at a recent meeting in Tokyo between Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Ira Shapiro, senior counsel in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, said an early settlement to the row is difficult.

Japan: Bilateral Talks on Chips, Film Held With U.S. in Kobe

OW2004041196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 20 KYODO — Japan and the United States remained wide apart on their thorny trade disputes over semiconductors and photographic film when trade chiefs of the two countries met for bilateral talks in Kobe on Saturday [20 April].

International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara and acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky met before attending quadrilateral trade talks with Canadian and European Union trade ministers being held here, a Japanese official said.

Tsukahara reiterated Japan's stance that the 1991 Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement should be allowed to expire at the end of July. He called for monitoring partnership negotiations between Japanese and U.S. microchip makers, the official said.

The foreign share in the Japanese semiconductor market stands above the 20 percent targeted by the U.S. under the pact.

Tsukahara said government involvement in the sector is no longer necessary, the official said.

Barshefsky stressed the importance of some government-level commitments to the market, a point made by U.S. president Bill Clinton when he met with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Tokyo this week. But she agreed to monitor private-sector talks, the official said.

Meanwhile, Tsukahara repeated his opposition to a U.S. call for bilateral talks on the Japanese film market, saying the issue should be resolved as part of competition policy of Japan's fair trade commission.

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative is investigating Eastman Kodak Co.'s complaint that Fuji Photo Film Co. is blocking its access to Japanese consumers through anticompetitive practices.

Tsukahara and Barshefsky agreed to talk further on microchip and film issues at the may ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other international conferences.

Japan: MITI Official Comments on Acting USTR Barshefsky's Debut

OW2204091296 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Charlene Barshefsky, who is also known as a hardliner in dealing with Japan, has been appointed acting U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] to succeed former USTR Mickey Kantor, and she made her debut on the front stage of trade negotiations in her talks with Minister Shunpei Tsukahara of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] on 20 April. Since she was serving as deputy USTR, Acting USTR Barshefsky has supported the former USTR behind the scenes in arguing with MITI officials during the Japan-U.S. consultations for economic relations.

Senior MITI officials would address her, rather ironically, as "My Dearest Barshefsky." However, despite her short and slim stature, she used to take a strict stance in neogitations. Originally serving as a lawyer, she is also known as a typical "tough negotiator."

Whether to address her as "My Dearest" or "tough"? During her talks with the MITI minister on the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement, participants centered their attention on her to see which face she would show. However, she did not try to steamroll her views, but would merely suggest "continuing consultations." Thus, she has indicated her softer side at the outset. In this connection, some MITI officials welcomed her with encouragement, and said: "She has taken a creditable stance."

Japan: Quad Ministers Open Global Trade Talks in Kobe 19 Apr

OW1904124096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1119 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Nobuaki Fukai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 19 KYODO — Four major economic powers opened three days of quadrilateral talks on global trade issues in kobe on Friday [19 April] evening to lay the groundwork for the first World Trade Organization (WTO) summit scheduled for December in Singapore.

Trade ministers from Japan, the United States, Canada and the European Union (EU) gathered at a welcoming reception to kick off the meeting in the international trade city which was jolted by a devastating earthquake in January 1995.

Former Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, now prime minister, proposed last year that Kobe host the event to encourage locals who suffered from the quake and promote the city's return to the international community.

Japanese Trade Minister Shumpei Tsukahara, acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, Canadian International Trade Minister Arthur Eggleton and EU Commission Vice President Leon Brittan participated in Friday's opening ceremony.

They will enter substantive talks Saturday.

One of the top items on the agenda of the quadrilateral meeting will be liberalization of telecommunications services. The four economies have already agreed through senior officials' talks to press ahead with easing of restrictions on foreign ownership of telecom operators.

Telecom liberalization — a service-sector issue which remained unresolved at the Uruguay round of trade talks — is currently being negotiated by 51 countries, including the quad economies, prior to an April 30 deadline.

The four economies expect to resolve differences among themselves on the issue and accelerate WTO negotiations in order to be able to press for liberalization of Asian telecom markets with strong growth potential, Japanese Government sources said.

Japan intends to repeal its restriction limiting the foreign ownership of telecom carriers with their own circuits — excluding Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and international carrier KDD — to less than one-third of their equity stakes.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and Posts and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino will attend discussion on the telecom issue slated for Saturday afternoon.

Among other issues on the agenda are the relationship between trade restrictions and environmental protection as well as China's bid for WTO membership.

Japan: Quad Economies Agree To Spur Telecom Liberalization

OW2004134496 Tokyo KYODO in English
1322 GMT 20 Apr 96

[By Nobuaki Fukai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 20 KYODO — Trade ministers from four major economies agreed Saturday [20 April] to promote further liberalization of the telecommunications services market, Japanese officials said.

The European Union (EU), however, has yet to resolve differences of opinion among its member states on the matter, the officials said.

On the second day of quadrilateral trade talks, the ministers from Japan, the United States, Canada and the EU discussed telecom services, a service-sector issue which could not be resolved under the Uruguay Round of global trade talks concluded in 1993.

Fifty-one countries, including the quad economies, are negotiating under the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reach an agreement on the issue by an April 30 deadline.

The four economies agreed to ease restrictions on the foreign ownership of telecom carriers, a key issue in the WTO telecom talks. But they remained apart on specifics, with EU member nations divided over the issue, the officials said.

Britain has already liberalized ownership restrictions and Germany proposes doing so by 1998, while France and Spain want to keep their restrictions in place.

Japan is expected to propose lifting its restriction on limiting the foreign ownership of telecom carriers — excluding Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) and international carrier KDD — to less than 30 percent.

Japan and the U.S., active proponents of telecom liberalization, are calling on the EU to offer further deregulation of foreign ownership. The quad economies will continue working-level talks on ownership restrictions, the officials said.

The four economies, meanwhile, agreed on model guidelines for regulations designed to enhance competition in the telecom field. Such regulations include forcing monopolistic carriers to provide rival carriers with access to their networks, they said.

They also reached consensus to bring the WTO telecom talks to a conclusion by the April 30 deadline, to urge developing nations to make liberalization offers and to improve their own offers, they said.

Acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky hailed the telecom discussion at the quad talks. "We do expect...to see revised offers in the group and I think that this is an important and useful contribution that this quad will have made," she told reporters.

The four economies, meanwhile, informally discussed China's bid for WTO membership over a working lunch. They shared a basic view on the importance of Beijing's early entry into the global trade body, Japanese officials said.

Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara, who chaired the talks, noted the need to call on China to lower tariffs and abide by international trade rules.

Barshefsky said, "We support China's accession to the WTO, but only on a commercially sound basis."

The quad economies also agreed to formulate transparent rules for government procurement. They will call for developing countries to join the process, the officials said.

Companies of industrial nations are committing bribery to win procurement contracts in developing nations, a point the U.S. protests because it has laws punishing U.S. companies committing bribery abroad, they said.

Japan: MITI Official Proposes Regular Economic Talks With U.S.

OW2104050296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 21 KYODO — Japan sounded out the United States on Sunday [21 April] about holding regular intergovernmental consultations on the whole bilateral economic relationship as a way to preempt trade disputes, a senior official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

Yoshihiro Sakamoto, MITI's vice minister for international affairs, said he made the proposal during a meeting with Stuart Eizenstat, U.S. commerce undersecretary for international trade.

Sakamoto and Eizenstat were among participants in a three-day meeting of trade chiefs from Japan, Canada, the European Union and the U.S., which ended Sunday in Kobe.

After his meeting with Eizenstat, Sakamoto told reporters, "the undersecretary as well thinks the Japan-U.S. economic relationship has focused too much on individual sectors," suggesting that Eizenstat is positive about holding regular consultations.

Japan first proposed regular consultations of vice economic ministers following the settlement of the bilateral auto negotiations last year, but Washington was reluctant to hold such consultations, Japanese officials said.

Japan: U.S. Asks To Discuss Chip Pact After Industry Talks

OW2004142496 Tokyo KYODO in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 20 KYODO — The chief U.S. trade negotiator Saturday [20 April] asked for new discussions on the Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade row with the Japanese trade minister after industry representatives conclude talks on the issue in Hawaii next Friday.

Acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky made the request for talks with Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara at a news conference following the conclusion of the day's session of three-day quadrilateral trade talks among Japan, the United States, Canada and the European Union.

Barshefsky apparently wants to have the next round of government-level talks with Tsukahara at a Paris meeting in May of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), informed sources said.

During negotiations earlier in the day, Barshefsky and Tsukahara did not reach agreement on renewing the pact after it expires July 31.

Both sides have long-standing differences over the pact regarding foreign access to the Japanese semiconductor market.

The pact calls for a steady increase above 20 percent in the combined foreign chip share of the Japanese market. Japan has taken the figure merely as benchmark to gauge market-opening efforts, but the U.S. has been seen it as binding.

The U.S. appears to doubt the effectiveness of having the chip industries of the two nations monitor possible changes in combined foreign market share in order to keep the share above the 20 percent line, the sources said.

The United States will increase pressure on Japan to drop its objections to extending the pact during an upcoming meeting between Barshefsky and Tsukahara, they said.

Japan: Finance Minister, Bank Governor Leave for G-7 Meeting

OW2004032296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0235 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo and Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasuo Matsushita left Tokyo Saturday morning [20 April] for Washington to attend a meeting of top financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers in the U.S. capital Sunday.

Kubo and Matsushita are scheduled to arrive in Washington at 1:30 P.M. Saturday.

Due to his tight Diet schedule, Kubo will return to Japan immediately after the end of the gathering of the G-7 finance ministers and central bankers.

Matsushita will return home Wednesday after attending a meeting Monday of the policy-making interim committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At the G-7 meeting, the finance chiefs and central bankers will exchange views on the economic situation of each member nation, Japanese officials said.

The G-7 consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States, in addition to Japan.

The Washington meeting is also expected to deal with a series of issues presented at a meeting of the G-7 top leaders in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, last year, the officials said.

Those issues include the strengthening of IMF resources for a possible currency crisis like that in Mexico in late 1994 and the easing of burdens of heavily indebted African and other nations, they said.

Reflecting recent stable movements on the foreign exchange market, the currency issue is unlikely to be high on the agenda at this G-7 meeting, the officials said.

Japan: Kubo To Assure Rubin of Continued Economic Stimulation

OW2104073696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0723 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 21 KYODO — Japanese Finance Minister Wataru Kubo will assure U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin that Japan will continue economy-stimulating measures when they meet before a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations in Washington on Sunday [21 April], Japanese officials said.

Their talks will come shortly before the G-7 finance ministers and central bankers hold a one-day session at noon to exchange views on macroeconomic policy for sustained global economic growth, the officials said.

Upon his arrival in Washington on Saturday afternoon, Kubo told reporters he wants to explain that the Japanese economy is moving toward recovery.

In talks with U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers in Tokyo on Wednesday, Kubo said ensuring domestic demand-led recovery is his government's top priority.

In a press conference Thursday, Rubin said, "in Japan, growth has begun again, but clearly it's very important that there be a focus on continuing policies that will sustain growth."

Washington believes Japan's economic expansion is the key to maintaining U.S. growth on higher exports through 1997 when the European economy is projected to slow down.

In September last year, Japan cut its official discount rate by half a percentage point to a historic low of 0.5 percent and adopted a 14.2 trillion yen package of pump-priming measures.

Japan: Kubo Previews G-7 Talks in Washington

OW2104015596 Tokyo KYODO in English 0144 GMT 21 Apr 96

[By Yoichi Kosukegawa]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 20 KYODO — Top finance officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) major economies will meet in Washington on Sunday [21 April] to discuss foreign exchange and other macroeconomic policies aimed at sustainable world economic growth.

Arriving in Washington on Saturday afternoon, Japanese Finance Minister Wataru Kubo told reporters that the G-7 nations will exchange views on the global economy and circumstances in member nations.

"I want to explain that the Japanese economy is moving toward recovery," he said.

Kubo also said Japan will brief its G-7 partners on recent developments in its efforts to settle the bad loan problem at financial institutions.

"How to settle the bad loan mess is Japan's domestic issue. Taking into account the issue's influence on the global economy, however, Japan will tackle it with international responsibility," he said.

The Japanese Government plans to use taxpayers' money to help liquidate troubled "jusen" mortgage companies which are saddled with huge problem loans. But the government's scheme has met with strong public criticism.

At the meeting of the G-7 finance ministers and central bankers, which is scheduled to start Sunday noon, participants are expected to discuss the currency issue.

Japanese officials, however, said it is unlikely that the G-7 nations will hold heated discussions on the foreign exchange issue as the currency market has been stable recently.

The seven major industrialized countries are expected to welcome the dollar's recent firmness against the yen and the mark and call for continued close cooperation for stability on the currency market, the officials said.

The G-7 nations are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Kubo will meet U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert crubin on Sunday morning shortly before the G-7 meeting. Both are expected to exchange views on the economic situation of each nation and to coordinate views on issues to be taken up at the G-7 meeting.

Japan: Kubo Leaves Washington for Tokyo 21 Apr

OW2204011296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 21 KYODO — Japan's Finance Minister Wataru Kubo left Washington on Sunday [21 April] for home after attending a meeting of top financial officials from the Group of Seven industrialized countries earlier in the day.

Kubo will arrive in Tokyo on Tuesday morning via Frankfurt, Germany.

Kubo and Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita attended the meeting of finance ministers and central bank chiefs from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Matsushita is staying in Washington to attend a meeting Monday of the Policy-Making Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Japan: Keidanren's Miyoshi on U.S.-Japan Auto Talks

962A0023A Tokyo TSUSAN JANARU in Japanese Jan 96 pp 28-29

[Article by Masaya Miyoshi, director general of Keidanren [the Japan Federation of Economic Organization]: "Grappling With Future U.S.-Japan Trade Talk Problems: What We Learned From U.S.-Japan Auto Talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Introduction

Although the meeting was about to begin, the top U.S. and Japanese businessmen who gathered in Tucson Arizona in July 1995 were enveloped in a relaxed atmosphere instead of the usual feeling of tension.

Needless to say, it was because the auto negotiations that stretched over the last two years had reached agreement just 10 days before, at the very deadline for imposing sanctions against Japan. It is said that the outcome of the negotiations was a draw, and, leaving arguments aside, there would have been a serious effect on both U.S. and Japanese industry if the negotiations had broken down. It was also natural that the meeting of members of U.S. and Japanese financial circles was dominated by the sense of relief after having escaped a danger point.

Granting that, even though negotiations on autos and auto parts is a priority issue of comprehensive economic talks, it is only a single field of negotiation.

Why is it that, in spite of this, they independently were called the "U.S.-Japan auto negotiations (or consultations)," and attracted this much attention? It is none other than that, in addition to the auto and auto parts industries being very important industries in both the United States and Japan, new factors in U.S.-Japan trade negotiations were brought in.

These factors were the dispute over compatibility of Article 301 of the U.S. Trade Law with WTO [World Trade Organization] rules; the changes in Japan, which is promoting relaxation of regulations, and the insufficient U.S. understanding of this; and the expansion of the role which private-sector companies play in U.S.-Japan trade problems.

The Role of Private Sector Companies

The special characteristic of the U.S.-Japan comprehensive economic talks lies in the fact that, unlike the U.S.-Japan structural impediments initiative talks (SII), the talks addressed problems by sector. If one excludes system problems such as controls on market access, sector problems — for example, U.S. manufactured products selling very poorly in the Japanese market — are the discontent of U.S. companies whose businesses are not doing well in Japanese markets.

The success or failure of U.S. companies' businesses is, by nature, up to the choices of Japanese companies and consumers, so it can be said to be decided by market mechanisms. To begin with, the Japanese Government firmly refused to accept "numerical targets" because of the thought that it would amount to the government's exceeding its authority and restricting the freedom of companies and consumers. On the other hand, most of these kinds of problems ought to be capable of solution if U.S. and Japanese members of the private sector form cooperative business relationships with each other. That is, stated in reverse, the role which the private sector plays in U.S.-Japan trade problems has become increasingly important.

Cooperative Relationships Between U.S. and Japanese Companies

Incidentally, a survey which Keidanren conducted of member companies in December 1993 revealed the existence of highly developed cooperative relationships between U.S. and Japanese industries, and particularly in the auto industry. An antagonistic relationship between the United States and Japan is being particularly stressed in what people say, but the reality is otherwise.

Similarly, there was a survey of major U.S. companies, conducted in the first half of 1995 by a U.S. polling firm, commissioned by Keidanren. According to that survey, although almost 90 percent held the opinion that penetration of the Japanese market is very difficult, the view that the relationship with customers is the key to business success in Japan was held by over 40 percent. Furthermore, 33 percent of the respondents gave as reasons why it is difficult to penetrate the Japanese market, the business practice of working with the companies with which they have had a long-term relationship, whild 22 percent indicated strong competition by Japanese companies. It is very interesting that long-term stable relationships were also cited more than anything else as the most satisfying aspect of doing business in Japan, according to 44 percent of the total number of respondents. It is clear from the results of this survey that U.S. companies themselves recognize that in order to penetrate Japanese markets it is important to build a relationship of trust with Japanese companies and consumers.

As I have already stated, there exists between U.S. and Japanese industries, not the kind of antagonism spoken of, but many highly developed cooperative relationships. Companies' business activities are not so simple that one can draw a line of demarcation between the national borders of the United States and Japan because globalization has advanced. Moreover, the stronger that U.S. and Japanese companies make their relationship of interdependence, the greater their common interests, so sanctions against Japan will have an effect on both U.S. and Japanese companies. It was also because this fundamental understanding that a common recognition was reached at the previously mentioned meeting of members of U.S. and Japanese financial circles. It was decided that an attempt should be made to solve U.S.-Japanese trade problems at the private sector level before they become political. Talks among members of the private sector will probably become more and more important in the solution of trade problems between the two countries.

The Problem of the U.S. Perception of Japan

In spite of the fact that in Japan an easing up of regulation is being strongly called for and that it is argued widely that it is indeed a key responsibility of companies, it looks as though a strong perception remains in the United States that Japan is pushing ahead by means of cooperation between the government and the private sector. In order for the United States to see that Japan is changing, it is necessary to steadily implement a relaxation of regulations and to strive to have the United States learn how Japan has changed and how it is about to change.

It is hoped that each industry will further strengthen public relations with the United States. At Keidanren, we are making public relations with the United States a priority task, along with strengthening dialogue with U.S. businessmen

Japan: Hashimoto's Popularity Boosted by U.S. Okinawa Concessions

OW2204092196 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 (AFP) — The popularity of Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rose after the U.S. military agreed to return some land in Okinawa, a poll showed Monday [22 April].

The monthly poll, conducted by Jiji Press between April 12 and 15, also showed that voter support for the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the second-biggest force in the ruling coalition, has begun to fall anew.

Picking up the slack are the opposition New Frontier Party, the Japan Communist Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], the third member of the ruling coalition.

Hashimoto's approval rating climbed from 37.9 percent of voters surveyed in March to 39.6 percent in the latest survey. At the same time, nowever, the ratio of voters who disapproved of the prime minister grew slightly, rising from 35.4 percent to 36.3 percent.

Although approval for Hashimoto's conservative LDP climbed 2.2 percentage points to 24 percent, it remained dwarfed by a majority with no particular party affiliation which stood at 56.7 percent, down three points.

The poll coincided with Hashimoto's announcement on April 12 that the United States military had agreed to surrender land occupied by a large air base in Okinawa, the site of anti-U.S. protests following the rape of a local schoolgirl by three American servicemen last September.

Support for the New Frontier Party rose 0.2 points to 7.5 percent, but the SDP, led by former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, shed 1.2 percentage points to 4.1 percent, results showed.

The Japan Communist Party's support rose 0.9 points to 2.9 percent while support for Sakigake edged up 0.3 points to 0.6 percent.

Jiji said 71 percent of a sample of 2,000 voters across the nation replied.

Japan: Hashimoto's Political Position After Summit Viewed

OW2104143196 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 19 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who has, for the time being, dealt with the two issues of the reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa and the Japan-U.S. summit successfully, seems to be quite satisfied with himself.

The prime minister, who has constantly been on the defensive since the inauguration of his administration, wants to face the second half of the Diet session with this self-confidence gained through his diplomatic performance. However, the debate on emergency defense cooperation, which came as an offshoot of the Okinawa issue and the summit, may bring about splits in the three-party coalition and encourage support for a "conservative-conservative alliance." Furthermore, there is still the possibility that Diet maneuverings over the jusen issue may trigger the Diet's dissolution and the realignment of the political sector. It remains difficult for Hashimoto, who does not have a solid power base in the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], to take control of the political situation.

Looking back at recent events in the management of the administration — the lower house passage of the FY96 budget, the decision to return Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, and completing the "redefinition" of the Japan-U.S. security alliance — top government officials, on 18 April, showed confidence that the political scene will move on under Hashimoto's control. They claimed that "although [the prime minister] had to walk a tightrope, he succeeded in achieving his goals. The Hashimoto cabinet has gained momentum."

After the prime minister comes back from his Russian visit that started on 18 April, he will study ways to manifest the "Hashimoto style" in policy areas that he specializes in, such as administrative reform and deregulation, while also working on the Diet deliberations on the jusen issue. In particular, the question of revising the consumption tax rate increase and the defunct National Railway's debts threaten to become controversial issues. Hashimoto wants to formulate a "mid-term financial restructuring program" and work out other "showcase policies" to enhance the political viability of his administration.

However, all attention in the political sector is now focused on questions relating to what is going to happen to the political situation, such as whether the jusen budget will be passed, the extension of the Diet session, and whether the Diet will be dissolved, which Hashimoto is not good at. Even LDP members are talking about a "dissolution after the Diet session closes," and psychological warfare is raging. The proposed study on an emergency in the Far East, which is linked to a constitutional debate on collective defense, has given rise to suspicions on the part of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] and Sakigake that "this smells of a political realignment by Ichiro Ozawa and people from the old Takeshita faction."

Under these circumstances, Hashimoto is trapped in the precarious position of having to give consideration to the SDP and Sakigake, to LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato and LDP leaders and younger members who value the "coalition," and to the older LDP Diet members who are willing to consider a "conservative-conservative alliance." Any attempt on his part to lean to whichever side may cause an outburst of strong criticism.

At a 17 April news conference, SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama said: "Right now, the wishes of a handful of people cannot change the political situation." He showed confidence in the coalition government. Yet, this can also be interpreted to mean he knows the prime minister's weaknesses.

Japan: Hashimoto Says 'No Intention' To Dispute Self-Defense Ban

OW2204030696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto won a nod Monday [22 April] from his top coalition partners for his security policy to honor the definition of the "Far East" under the existing Japan-U.S. security treaty, officials said.

Hashimoto told the leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] that he has no intention to dispute the ban on collective self-defense as spelled out in the postwar Constitution, the officials said.

Hashimoto, president of the Liberal Democratic Party, conferred on these and other issues in a Monday morning meeting with SDP leader Tomiichi Murayama and Sakigake chief Masayoshi Takemura, they said.

Hashimoto later met separately with Ichiro Ozawa, leader of the largest opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), and Tetsuzo Fuwa, head of the Japanese Communist Party.

The prime minister held the meetings to brief his coalition partners and political rivals on his recent talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and a weekend trip to Russia.

In the meeting with Ozawa, Hashimoto said his government will study various scenarios for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation under the existing security framework, the officials said.

They said Ozawa explained his party's ongoing debate on the Constitution.

Japan: More on Tokyo Retaining Collective Self-Defense Ban

OW2204062796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and his top ruling coalition partners agreed Monday [22 April] to maintain a ban on exercising the right to collective self-defense and honor the definition of the "Far East" region covered by Japan's security treaty with the United States.

Hashimoto, president of the Liberal Democratic Party, a dominant coalition force, reached the accord at a meeting with Tomiichi Murayama, head of the Social Democratic Party, and Masayoshi Takemura, chief of the smallest alliance partner New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], coalition officials said.

Hashimoto called the meeting, followed by two other separate ones with opposition leaders, to brief them on his talks last week with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Tokyo and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.

The premier told the coalition partners he has no intention to dispute the government's official view that Japan has the right to defend an ally attacked by a third country under international law but that the pacifist Constitution bars Japan from exercising the collective self-defense right, the officials said.

Hashimoto made the comment in response to growing calls among some coalition and opposition members for a review of that position after he and Clinton issued a joint declaration last week committing Japan and the U.S. to closer and broader-based security cooperation.

The two countries also agreed to review guidelines for bilateral security cooperation, so far focused on the U.S. helping Japan repel an invasion, and launch a joint study on how their Armed Forces can cooperate in times of an emergency in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hashimoto assured the coalition partners that he will not change the scope of the Far East mentioned in the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in connection with one of its articles allowing the U.S. military to use facilities and areas in Japan to ensure peace and security in the region, the officials said.

The government defined the scope in a statement issued in 1960 as areas north of the Philippines, around Japan and surrounding waters, South Korea and Taiwan.

The joint security declaration has prompted some coalition members to suspect that the Hashimoto administration may be considering expanding the coverage of the treaty to the entire Asia- Pacific region.

Referring to the agreed review of the defense cooperation guidelines, Hashimoto told the coalition partners that it will be conducted within the existing constitutional and legal constraints, the officials said.

The premier thus rejected calls from some members of the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) for special legislation aimed at preparing Japan for emergencies in the Far East.

At his meeting with Shinshinto head Ichiro Ozawa, Hashimoto stressed the need to study what Japan can and cannot do specifically for closer defense cooperation with the U.S., aides to the premier said.

But Ozawa disagreed, noting that Shinshinto has started discussions on fundamental issues first, including the constitutional question of collective self-defense, rather than individual matters such as the extent of logistics and other forms of support for U.S. troops in Japan in case of an emergency, they said.

Ozawa told reporters later that discussing individual issues first is useless because the focal question is whether or not the Constitution permits collective self-defense.

Hashimoto later conferred with Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japanese Communist Party's presidium.

Fuwa accused Hashimoto of allowing the U.S. to tighten its grip on the southwestern Japanese island of Okinawa by pledging closer bilateral security cooperation, the premier's aides said.

The communist leader said Clinton's statement in the Diet last week that urged Japan to "look with me ahead to the next 50 years of our partnership" means Okinawan people must bear the burden of hosting U.S. troops heavily concentrated on the Island for half a century.

But Hashimoto brushed aside the criticism, saying it is good for the bilateral partnership to continue for 50 or 100 years, the officials said.

Okinawa hosts 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land area, and about half the 47,000 troops stationed in the country.

Japan: Taiwan Ruling Party Leader Welcomes U.S.-Japan Alliance

OW1904125596 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — The Secretary General of Taiwan's ruling party Friday [19 April] welcomed the reaffirmation of the U.S.-Japan security alliance during U.S. President Bill Clinton's state visit to Japan earlier this week.

In a joint declaration, the two countries pledged to study closer defense cooperation in the event of a contingency in the areas surrounding Japan.

"That's a good thing," Hsu Shui-teh, secretary general of the Kuomintang (KMT or nationalist party), told a news conference in Tokyo.

Hsu also said, "now that the Cold War is over, the merely bilateral security alliance should be developed into a collective security system."

Prolonged tension between China and Taiwan, which culminated in three weeks of military exercises including missile launches near Taiwan last month, have heightened attention to security issues among governments in the region.

During the exercises, Washington temporarily deployed two aircraft carrier battle groups near Taiwan, viewed by Beijing as a renegade province.

For Japan, which hosts 47,000 U.S. troops, a potential military confrontation between China and Taiwan is an anathema.

Hsu brushed off the question whether the upcoming replacement of Taiwan's top representative in Japan, Lin Chin-chin, by a former Taiwan top brass, was aimed at military exchange with Japan.

Chuang Ming-yao, a strategy adviser to Taiwan president Li Teng-hui and former navy commander-in-chief, is being tapped to succeed lin as head of the Taipei economic and cultural representative office in Japan.

"His appointment is beneficial to Taiwan and he will also make a good representative for both sides," Hsu said.

Hsu arrived in Tokyo on Thursday for a five-day visit. On Friday, he delivered a speech on Taiwan's future in the wake of the island's first-ever direct presidential election last month, which returned Li to power with a strong majority.

Japan: LDP Proposes Wider Scope for Security Treaty With U.S.

OW2104091096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO — The top policy-maker of the ruling coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Sunday [21 April] expanding the scale of the area covered by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty to include the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Taku Yamasaki, head of the Policy Affairs Research Council the LDP, the largest among the three coalition parties, said in a TV program that the treaty should be applied to the entire Asia-Pacific region instead of the current areas north of the Philippines.

"The international situation has changed, and the Asia-Pacific region is developing as one unit," Yamasaki said in the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) program. He noted that 100,000 U.S. troops are stationed in the region to guarantee security for the whole Asia-Pacific region.

Shun Oide of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the LDP's coalition partner, however, voiced skepticism about the idea during the program.

Oide, who heads the SDP's study group on security issues, said the coalition government has recently declared in new defense policy outlines that the interpretation of the bilateral security treaty will not be changed.

Yamasaki also said the ruling coalition will seek early agreement among its three partners on how Japan will respond to emergencies in the Far East on the heels of last week's joint declaration with the United States committing the two countries to closer security cooperation.

"How should we respond when an emergency occurs on the Korean peninsula or in the Taiwan Strait and U.S. Forces (based in Japan) are dispatched there?" Yamasaki asked.

Yamasaki said the coalition must forge an agreement on how Japan will cooperate with the U.S. military, handle refugees and rescue Japanese nationals in an area of conflict.

Cooperation with the U.S. military involves the sensitive issue of collective self-defense, which the government says is banned by Japan's war-renouncing constitution, but Yamasaki said the proposed accord will be sought within constitutional constraints.

"We cannot exercise the right to collective self-defense. In no way can we allow ourselves to act with the U.S. military in its use of force," he added.

He gave as an example of illegal actions assisting refueling at the site of fighting, but said feasible aid includes supplying food and water.

Japan and the U.S. in issuing their joint agreement Wednesday agreed to review guidelines for bilateral security cooperation, which has so far focused on the U.S. helping Japan defend itself in an invasion, and to jointly study ways to increase the scope of military cooperation during regional emergencies.

Appearing on the NHK program, officials of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], the smallest of the three coalition parties, and the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) agreed in principle with the LDP official on closer cooperation with the U.S. military.

The SDP's Oide agreed on the need for discussions but cautioned that they should be conducted in line with constitutional and other legal provisions.

Oide also said the role of the Self-Defense Forces cannot be increased unless relevant laws are revised.

On a different television program, the policy board chairman of Shinshinto called for efforts to legislate a new law aimed at coping with emergencies.

Kazuo Aichi said on a Fuji TV network program considering special legislation for emergencies is "natural," adding that it would be too late to consider legislation after an emergency occurs. "We have to take account of all possibilities."

Aichi also said the exercise of the right to collective self-defense has won majority support in his party, though no formal decision has yet been taken.

Exercising the right to collective self-defense would embody the spirit of the Japan-U.S. security alliance and it should be used in order to make it a solid one, he added.

But the Japanese Communist Party's Kazuo Shii disagreed, saying exercising the right would violate the constitution and make it hollow in nature.

"We should not exercise the collective self-defense right but instead depend on a collective security system based on the UN Charter," said Shii, chief of the JCP's secretariat.

Japan: National Defense Academy Professor Lauds Summit With U.S.

OW2104140196 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by Tadashi Nishihara, professor of National Defense Academy: "Japan and the United States Now Look More Like Allies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japan-U.S. summit and its joint statement are very meaningful in the context that the two nations' top leaders sat together and seriously discussed major alliance issues for the first time since the war ended. Furthermore, they bore better-than-expected results. Now Japan looks more like an ally.

In redefining the Japan-U.S. alliance, there are three major points to note. One is the military bases on Okinawa. The joint statement announced a plan to reduce the U.S. military bases, which includes reversion to Japan of Futenma Air Station, a base that has been very symbolic of the military base problem in Okinawa. This is a drastic achievement indeed.

From the perspective of the United States' world strategy, assurance to be able to use military bases on Japan in a secure manner is a matter of life-and-death importance. The summit opened a path toward this. What is important now is the smooth implementation of the reversion and the building up of mutual trust through that process.

The second point concerns what role Japan should play in the Japan-U.S. alliance framework. Regarding that point, Japan has agreed to provide more active logistic support to the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan by concluding an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement [ACSA].

But the agreement also states this arrangement can apply only during peacetime. Trust in the Japan-U.S. alliance can be improved by having an ACSA that applies in contingencies. There also is the question of what the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] should do to support the U.S. Armed Forces in the event of contingencies. As far as that is concerned, what Japan must do is to first think about doing it within the scope of exercising the right of individual self-defense — before starting to discuss exercising the right of collective self-defense. What I am saying is that we should take care so that the SDF's defensive-purpose logistic support can be provided to U.S. forces (supplying fuel and clearing mines, for instance) within the framework of exercising the right for individual self-defense.

The third is the question of what role the Japan-U.S. alliance should play. In the joint statement, "the Far East," the expression used in the past to define the area of treaty application, was not present, and was replaced by the expression "the Asian and Pacific region." This is very meaningful.

In view of situations such as the DPRK (North Korea) continuing to act unpredictably; the Korean peninsula, in which South-North relations apparently are not going smoothly; and China, which is predicted to menace its neighbors with its diplomacy of intimidation as it gains more economic confidence and military power, the Japan-U.S. alliance will come to have increased meaning as a contributor to stability in Asia and the Pacific.

Undeclared supporters of the strengthened Japan-U.S. alliance are Southeast Asian countries, which are keeping quiet only because they are afraid of retributions from China, the great power. These countries want the Japan-U.S. alliance to work as a counterbalance to China.

However, one precondition to it is that the Japan-U.S. alliance should never be an anti-China alliance, but still should be able to restrain inappropriate Chinese diplomatic and military actions. Japan and the United States should build some kind of cooperative relationship with that country. However, this Japan-U.S. summit failed to give a clear view on that.

The joint statement also cited the "change that can happen in international security situations" as a subject of possible "close consultations" for Japan and the United States. It is now time for Japan to seriously think about what it should do and should not do as regards international security in the future, recalling the Gulf war when Japan, not knowing what role it should play, came under heavy criticism from the United States and other countries.

Japan: Okinawa Paper on Japan-U.S. Summit

OW2204005296 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Summit Meeting Opens a Dangerous Path"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Treaty Being Redefined as Desired by the United States**

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton at their summit meeting focused their attention on issues of military bases and security, and announced in a joint statement their agreement to strengthen the Japan-U.S. security alliance and to reduce U.S. military bases in Japan in a quid pro quo.

The discontent of the Okinawan people that erupted over the incident of U.S. soldiers raping a child has sent big ripples over Japan and overseas. As such, it may be said that the Japan-U.S. summit meeting this time was watched by not only Japan and the United States, but also the whole international community — particularly as regards the question of whether Japan can enter into equal partnership with the United States at this landmark time of 50 years after the war's end.

The publicized contents of the summit, however, indicate that all that they did was to confirm with each other the interim report of the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee of the Japan-U.S. Security Consultation Commission (2-plus-2).

With the confirmation of the report, the U.S. military bases in Japan will be reduced by about 20 percent and this will bring about the return of the Futenma Air Station to Okinawa. In return, the Japan-U.S. security treaty will be "redefined" so that their military cooperation may be expanded to meet "contingencies in the Far East." In other words, it was a give-and-take deal as desired by the United States.

In the joint statement on security issues, the two countries confirmed the policy of strengthening the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation system against contingencies in the Far East that includes the Korean peninsula, China, and Taiwan. The aim of the policy is to shift the weight of the Japan-U.S. security system from that of "defending Japan" to that of "jointly acting on contingencies in the Far East" and to expand its scope of application from "the Far East" to the whole region of Asia and the Pacific eventually.

This is nothing but revelation of the United States' intention in its Far East strategy to pursue its own interests using Japan as its foothold.

Even the agreed plan for realignment and reduction of military bases is nothing more than relocation of the bases in fact. We must say this situation is so serious as to threaten the integrity of the peace Constitution of this country. The joint statement announced the two countries agreed to review the "guideline for the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation actions" in the event of contingencies in the Far East and to conduct joint studies on ways of strengthening and solidifying the Japan-U.S. defense cooperation system.

In reviewing the guideline, the statement notes, the two countries agreed on the need to take up the specific issues of: 1) conducting studies on the Japan-U.S. cooperation in contingencies in the Far East; 2) promoting cooperation based on the Japan-U.S. acquisition and cross servicing agreement (ACSA); 3) jointly developing support fighter F-2 and other equipment with emphasis on having them used commonly by the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] and the U.S. armed forces; and promoting mutual exchange of technologies.

Regarding cooperation based on the ACSA which will enable the SDF and the U.S. forces to provide to each other such supplies as foodstuffs and fuel, and services like transportation, communications and medical care, the two countries agreed not to apply it in cases of "contingencies" or on use in "the U.S. armed forces' independent exercises" as it would constitute the exercise of the right of collective self-defense banned under the Constitution, but they still retained a possible way of using it in contingencies by promising the "Japan-U.S. cooperation in situations that can occur in the perimeter of Japan" which no doubt is a roundabout expression of saying they can use it.

If a conflict breaks out on the Korean peninsula or between China and Taiwan, it is likely the U.S. forces will request Japan to provide logistic support by fueling and servicing U.S. vessels and aircraft, for instance. That is why we are concerned about the possibility of this issue being raised again in the future.

The Constitution Being Hollowed Out

We must not permit any talks to negotiate a deal which will enable the use of commercial airports in contingencies. The government says it will act only within the framework of the Constitution, but there have never been any discussions on what the scope of this framework is. Besides, the framework can be arbitrarily expanded.

Let's review the past postwar 50 years. The "Police Reserve Forces" was activated first as an organization to enforce security of the country, but then it was transformed into the "Self-Defense Forces" which was supposed to defend the country. In a so-called Sunagawa case in which the question of whether the stationing of the U.S. forces in Japan constituted violation of the Constitution was debated, the Tokyo District Court ruled that the stationing of the forces does violate Article 9 of the Constitution, but the Supreme Court subsequently upturned that ruling, declaring, "It is not clear if that constituted a violation of the Constitution." Later on, the SDF troops were sent overseas on peacekeeping operations (PKO) missions on the grounds that they are to "cooperate with the United Nations."

This trend of shifting to the right has been given a major impetus from the change of stand of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] on the issue. Following the collapse of the 1955 political regime, the SDP, in joining a coalition to form a government, announced the coalition government will "maintain the Japan-U.S. security alliance."

The nation should realize that Article 9 of the Constitution is about to be hollowed out by the concept of Japan's role under the Japan-U.S. security system in the situation of contingencies. At the summit meeting, the leaders of the two countries reconfirmed the strong resolve to "act together in ensuring peace and prosperity for the future generations, standing on the successful history of security cooperation, with the 21st century forthcoming." But there is a big contradiction between this reconfirmation and the declaration in the joint statement to expand and strengthen the Japan-U.S. security system.

Strengthened Security System Will Alarm Other Nations

The security system with basis on strengthening the military base functions will cause alarm in Asian nations, while only proving there is not much change being made from the old Japan-U.S. security treaty that was concluded for the purpose of building Japan into a "bulwark" against communism.

Under the Japan-U.S. security system in the Cold War days, Japan depended on the United States for its security. If that system is to be redefined, it should be that of Japan and the United States working together to deal with the unstable elements in the Far East by peaceful means.

Even in the latest actions under the Japan-U.S. security system, there is a condition, which is that in return for evacuating the Futenma Air Station, burdens for Kadena Air Base and Iwakuni Air Base will increase. Sobe Communications Station will be relocated to Camp Hansen and the Naha Military Port will be relocated to Urasoe upon construction of port facilities there.

When we talk about reversion of U.S. military bases to Japan, we mean reversion of land and removal of facilities and troops. This agreement on the Japan-U.S. security system accompanied by the action of relocating the bases can never win the support of the people.

Japan: Article Notes Misgivings About Redefining Security Treaty

OW2104133196 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Takuro Kawaide: Part one of "New Japan-U.S. Alliance With Summit Closed" series: "Treaty Shifts From One of 'Defending Japan' to 'Contributing to Regional Security'; Revising Guidelines Can Lead to Violation of the Constitution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "This summit was supported by the solid pillar of mutual understanding of the people of the two nations and by the sense of values common to them. We were able to reaffirm the very priceless relationship of the two countries. That is the achievement of today's meeting."

So saying in a news conference with President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto proudly emphasized that the summit ended successfully.

This summit's scenario, according to a senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] official, was "for the two leaders to reaffirm the importance of the Japan-U.S. relationship and to announce this to the people of the two nations." Everything went according to that scenario. Immediately before the meeting, there was a revelation of a dramatic development in negotiations on the Okinawa military base issue, with the U.S. Armed Forces agreeing to return all of Futenma Air Station — a feat that a Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] leader called surpassing expectations and that, coming just then, an MOFA official said was "very effective" in publicity appeal.

The "priceless relationship" referred to by Prime Minister Hashimoto signifies "the new alliance of the 21st century," which was a subtitle of the Japan-U.S. security statement; while the "new alliance" can be said to mean changing the primary aim for the Japan-U.S. security system from that of "defending Japan" to that of "contributing to regional stability." Japan will be required to work closer with the United States than before. In case of "contingencies in the Far East," the two countries will need to strengthen their military cooperation even more. In view of this need, the two countries have decided to revise the "guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation that will open a path for exercising the right for collective self-defense — a right that could infringe on the Constitution — and to conclude an acquisition and cross-serving agreement (ACSA).

This is the first time that the expression "Japan-U.S. alliance" has been used so openly. The "alliance relationship" was first mentioned in the "Japan-U.S. joint statement" issued at the 1981 Zenko Suzuki-Ronald Reagan summit; but at that time a debate arose within the government over the question of whether the expression had any military connotation, and the issue developed into Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito's resignation. No doubt the recent "Japan-U.S. joint statement on security," which announced the "new alliance," signals a major turning point in this nation's security policy.

The post-war Japan-U.S. relationship has long been called an "equal partnership" (as mentioned in the 1961 Hayato Ikeda-Jack Kennedy meeting). But in fact, that "equal partnership" has been one in which Japan leaned on the United States inasmuch as the security pact has been unilateral, as it said, in effect, "the United States is obligated to defend Japan, but Japan has no obligations to defend the United States."

An LDP kokubo zoku (dietman lobbying for the interest of the Defense Agency and the defense industry) asserted, "This redefining of the security treaty means a de facto revision of the treaty and an attempt to put bilateralism into this treaty of unilateral nature." But we should also admit that the "new alliance" can lead to further increases in burdens borne by Japan.

In their joint news conference, Prime Minister Hashimoto called the redefining of the security treaty the "start of cooperation between the two countries"; and President Clinton said, "this [redefining] is a way of strengthening Japan-U.S. security and a process of bringing maturity to it."

However, there have been no explanations given on what the final goal for this is or what the mature Japan-U.S. security system is supposed to be. This "redefining" has not been preceded by any particular debate on it in the Diet or by discussions among the public either. I cannot see a direction for this "new alliance" as such.

Japan: Article Views Significance of Joint Security Declaration

OW2104142896 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 3

[By Yoji Koike, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN Washington Bureau chief]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security" symbolizes an increasingly deepening involvement of Japan in the United States' Asia-Pacific strategy. Because it upholds Japan-U.S. cooperation in regional and world security and further aims at cooperation during an emergency in the Far East, it contains elements that may greatly affect Japan's future. For sure, the Japan-U.S. security alliance is undergoing a process of qualitative change.

This declaration is the culmination of the debate on how to redefine the bilateral alliance after the elimination of open threats with the end of the Cold War. It represents the two governments' basic policy on security cooperation in the post-Cold War period.

The first part of the declaration notes the "instability and uncertainty" in the Asian situation. For some time to come, this definitely refers to the situation on the Korean peninsula; and, in the long-term, it focuses on China on its way to becoming a superpower.

The important thing is that the declaration clearly states the maintenance of 100,000 U.S. troops in the Asian region; and, with regard to Japan, although no specific figure is given, the present troop level will continue. This clearly affirms the significance of the security alliance at a time questions are being raised in both countries about it after the Cold War, and it is also meant to eliminate the concern of the Asian countries about the withdrawal of U.S. forces and an ensuing "power vacuum."

For the United States, Asia is a region that may become critical for the future of its economy. Declaring U.S. involvement in the region is also a means to secure future U.S. national interests.

The fact that the declaration refers to an emergency in the Far East is even more significant. A senior Defense Department official who was involved in drafting the declaration clearly stated that "it will be desirable for Japan to be involved not only in Asian and Pacific security, but also in world security." U.S. opinion leaders are beginning to come out openly in support of Japanese exercise of the right of collective defense.

The joint declaration was also watched for how the PRC would be mentioned. The document emphasizes an "active and constructive role for China" in the Asia-Pacific region, professing a conciliatory attitude toward the PRC. It tries very hard to avoid giving the impression that the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. security alliance means the "containment of China."

U.S. defense authorities eulogize the declaration as "epochmaking." Yet, it remains unclear how the people of both countries will look at it. It is not certain whether the continuation of the security alliance, which is premised only on "instability and uncertainty" in the region, will be considered legitimate at a time when an open threat is absent, and a national consensus on the potential threat is yet to be formed. In that sense, concrete steps to be taken by the two countries from now on will be of great importance.

Japan: Economic Commentator on Hashimoto-Clinton Summit

OW1904143196 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 11

[Summary of remarks by economic commentator Naoki Tanaka, at an interview by unidentified MAINICHI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security issue has apparently become the basis of relations between Japan and the United States while the economic issue has retreated to the backstage. When then U.S. President George Bush visited Japan in 1992 (when the economic field was a focal point), the recovery of the U.S. economy was slow and its employment problems were serious.

However, Japan has been tackling deregulation since 1993. If the Japanese economy recovers fully, this will help increase Japan's imports and reduce its trade surplus. The semiconductor, film, and insurance sectors are no longer themes that should be discussed between the Japanese and U.S. leaders.

On the other hand, Japan-U.S. security has never been a theme for the two countries before. However, the security of East Asia is so important that the United States has to continue its dialogue with Japan on a regular basis. In this sense, the latest Japan-U.S. summit meeting was of great significance because the two countries' political interests have shifted from the economy to security, and the contents of the summit meeting have changed from "performance" to structural analysis..

Since a plan for Japan-U.S. security arrangements in East Asia was presented during the latest summit, it is time to implement the plan. Japan will be asked again to clarify its security system after President Clinton returns home.

Japan: Business Leader on Outcome of Summit With U.S.

OW2104134296 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 11

[Summary of remarks by Jiro Ushio, Japan Association of Corporate Executives chairman by unidentified MAINICHI SHIMBUN reporter; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] After hearing the summit results, I felt that the Japan-U.S. relationship, which was distantly separated by the Pacific Ocean, has become truly close. The bilateral relationship grew into maturity to a point where there was no need to discuss individual problems in each economic sector. Remarkable success was made in the security area as the two leaders went a step further to discuss the U.S. forces' use of various facilities in Japan in case of emergencies. Due credit should be given to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto for his leadership. Reaffirmation of the bilateral cooperation line must have relieved Asian countries.

Improvement in economic issues is a result of Japan's efforts for the past two years, such as paving the way for trade surplus cuts. Other factors are Japan's giving up the economic exclusion policy after failing to overcome the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation's (APEC) move toward free trade and its running out of so-called Japan money (to hunt for American assets). Since Japan and the United States have always maintained wide-ranging economic relations, there is no need to worry even though the two countries may always have five or six problems that cause friction.

The summit brought a temporary settlement to the bilateral economic friction and the U.S. focus concerning the trade balance is now set on China and NAFTA. What this mean is that Japan bashing is not on the horizon for the time being.

Japan: Tokyo Governor Wants To Continue Seeking Return of Yokota

OW1904132396 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — Tokyo Gov. Yukio Aoshima said Friday [19 April] he wants to continue to seek an early return to Japan of a U.S. military base in Fussa in suburban Tokyo.

Aoshima told a regular press conference, "it is not natural for a foreign military base to exist in a megalopolis of a sovereign nation," referring to the Yokota Air Base on the outskirts of Tokyo.

Aoshima added that Tokyo will join other prefectures with U.S. military bases and facilities in seeking an early return and reduction of the bases.

Japan and the United States recently agreed on the return of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futemma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture to Japanese control over the next five to seven years.

Japan: Usui Urges Okinawa's Cooperation for Return of Futenma

OW2104140596 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 20 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] On the afternoon of 19 April, Defense Agency [DA] Director General Hideo Usui granted an interview to OKINAWA TIMES. In the interview, the director general said: "I hope (Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota) will play a role in coordinating opinions of local municipalities" on the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma for the complete return of the land to local owners. In this way, he indicated that without prefectural office cooperation, the relocation work would not be smoothly.

On 19 April, a DA source said there was a high possibility that the U.S. forces would ask the government to build a runway on an existing U.S. base on Okinawa for the relocation of MCAS Futenma helicopter units. Local municipalities' strong opposition to the relocation plan will be inevitable if it entails the construction of a runway. Also, Governor Ota, who the central government expects to act as a coordinator, will be put in a more difficult position.

"ASP1," a district of the Kadena Munitions Storage Area, is considered the likeliest place for a "heliport" for the MCAS Futenma units. ASP1 ranges over Yomitan and Onna Villages.

Concerning the interim report proposed by the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO), Usui emphatically said: "That is the result of SACO's efforts to meet Okinawan demands and, at the same time, to maintain the functions of U.S. bases." He also stressed the "significance of the Japan-U.S. agreement on the complete return of MCAS Futenma, which Okinawa residents have been demanding."

The director general noted: "Without the understanding and support of the prefectural office and people, the return of U.S. bases will be impossible."

He also said that a working group, which will be set up under Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Teijiro Furukawa and whose membership will include representatives of the prefectural office, would not only draw up plans for the utilization of returned military-occupied land but it would deal with "extensive issues, including the selection of alternate sites for relocation."

At a 17 April news conference in Tokyo, Governor Ota said: "The state should undertake the task (of persuading concerned municipalities to accept U.S. military facilities)." His remark raises a question as to whether or not it is all right for the prefectural office to join the government's working group.

Usui said: "The Japanese and U.S. Governments have agreed on the return of some U.S. facilities and areas without setting a deadline. They also have not decided on the space to be returned in the Northern Training Area." He noted that SACO would reach a conclusion on these matters by November.

Attention is focused on how Governor Ota will respond to a government request for issuing public notification, a procedure for forced use of land for the U.S. military. Concerning this, Usui said: "The central government has made efforts to reduce Okinawa's burden. I hope the governor will take this into account and cooperate."

Japan: Kadena Rally Opposes Transfer of U.S. Helicopter Unit

OW2004122896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 20 KYODO — About 950 residents near the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa Prefecture held a rally Saturday [20 April] to protest the planned transfer of a U.S. helicopter unit from the Futenma Airfield to Kadena.

The United States has agreed to return the Marine Corps Futenma Air Station to Japan in five to seven years. It plans to transfer the helicopter unit stationed there to Kadena.

The residents adopted a resolution to oppose the transfer, which they said will increase noise pollution in the town of Kadena.

Tokujitsu Miyagi, head of Kadena Town, told the rally the U.S. move is unacceptable as it will increase the military presence at Kadena Air Base.

Miyagi pledged he will continue the campaign against the move through November, when a bilateral committee on U.S. bases in Okinawa will issue a final report on the reduction and consolidation of U.S. bases.

On Monday, the committee issued an interim report, unveiling a set of measures to "reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa" in response to local residents' calls for reduction of the huge U.S. military presence in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

Japan: Yomitan, Onna Officials Oppose Futenma Heliport Transfer

OW1904114996 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 17 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Local residents and governments in Yomitan village and Onna village are increasingly opposed to and perplexed with the fact that an area (of approximately 360 hectares) within the Kadena ammunition depot, which stretches over both the two villages, is regarded as the most probable site for relocation of a heliport and other functions of the Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma. Since fields and mountains occupy most of the very area within the ammunition facility, many people concerned are expressing apprehension that the relocation will lead to the "construction of a new large base." The issue is now creating a large stir among people concerned. Immediately following good news about the complete return of MCAS Futenma was announced, it is already expected that the "transfer of the base functions within the prefecture" will result in new damage from U.S. bases and environmental disruption. This is shaking the "small base island."

What is to be transferred to the Kadena ammunition depot is a heliport used by the helicopter unit (of the Marine Corps) at the MCAS Futenma. The relocation makes it a condition that the new heliport is capable of accepting about 300 helicopters in an emergency.

If the plan is materialized, it is expected that there will be a considerably large facility. A wide-ranging deforestation program is expected in the area to which the heliport will likely be transferred, and there is also concern about the impact on "mokunin kosakuchi" [arable land within U.S. military facilities where people are engaged in farming with tacit approval].

Yomitan Village Chief Tokushin Yamauchi pointed out "imprudence" in the government plan. He bitterly said: "There are houses around the area, and there is also a water conservation forest for agricultural dams. Officials of the Japanese and U.S. Governments may have chosen the area without even seeing the actual site. Their plan shows that they regard the area as unmanned, waste land." He indicated a strong determination, saying: "If they force through the construction work, we will start a new struggle."

Onna Township Deputy Chief Eiki Oshiro also expressed resentment: "We are very angry because our village has not received any information. Do they intend to force noise pollution or dangers of accidents now seen around MCAS Futenma upon us? We will deeply oppose the construction."

Kadena Township is scheduled to hold a town mass rally on 20 April to oppose the transfer of some of MCAS Futenma functions. Town Chief Tokujitsu Miyagi said: "I was surprised. The series of moves seem to be intended to construct a large base in the Yomitan area. If a heliport is constructed in an area within the ammunition depot, it is quite plain that helicopters will fly over residential areas in Kadena. This is a worst situation. We will appeal strong opposition to the plan at the townspeople's rally." He thus criticized a series of plans to transfer military base functions to Kadena.

The northern side of the alternative site are Yamada, Maeda, Shioya, Ukaji, and other residential areas in Onna village, and the southern side are Zakimi and Kina residential areas in Yomitan village. Masao Kyan, principal of the Yamada elementary and junior-high school, was perplexed at the abrupt plan for the transfer. He said: "This issue takes precedence over education. We have no choice but to oppose the plan in order to protect children's lives."

Japan: Okinawa Perplexed With U.S. Demand for Runway Construction

OW2104140796 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 19 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo — It has been revealed as of 19 April that the United States has demanded construction of a runway in addition to the request for "constructing a heliport at "existing U.S. facilities in Okinawa." The Japanese and U.S. Governments have agreed on the complete return of the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma in the next five to seven years under the condition of the new heliport construction. It has been agreed that a heliport will be constructed within the Kadena ammunition depot adjacent to Kadena Air Base. If the Japanese Government accepts the U.S. demand, this means that a full-fledged Marine Corps base with a runway will be constructed instead of the MCAS Futenma's return. This will inevitably invite a strong reaction from the Okinawan people.

The construction of a runway was not included in conditions for the return of MCAS Futenma. This was not mentioned at a 12 April joint news conference by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, at which the return of the MCAS Futenma was announced.

As a condition of the MCAS Futenma return, the U.S. requested construction of a facility with a runway, which is capable of accepting and operating about 70 helicopters currently deployed at the MCAS Futenma. The total area of the new facility is expected to be smaller than MCAS Futenma (with a total area of approximately 480 hectares).

The Defense Agency [DA] explained to the ruling coalition's project team on U.S. military bases on Okinawa on 16 April: "If a runway is constructed on the same scale as the existing one in Futenma, the costs of returning MCAS Futenma are expected to reach 300-400 billion yen."

Regarding the U.S. demand for construction of a runway, DA Director General Hideo Usui stated at a 19 April morning news conference after a cabinet meeting: "(As a condition for the return of the Futenma base), it is requested that a heliport, at which dozens of helicopters can be stationed, be constructed. As a matter of course, we need to coordinate final details as to what kind of facility will be needed."

The Okinawa prefectural government's task force on military base-related issues is perplexed with the report that the United States "has also demanded construction of a runway" in the Kadena ammunition depot in connection with the transfer of the MCAS Futenma heliport. Task force officials said: "We have not heard anything."

Japan: Okinawa Land Panel Says Sobe Inspection 'Insufficient'

OW1904135896 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 19 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee (chaired by Kenyu Nishi; comprised of seven members) made an on-the-spot inspection of the Sobe Communications Site (known as the elephant cage) in Namihira, Yomitan village, on the afternoon of 18 April. The national government has asked the committee to permit emergency use of the facility because of the continued illegal occupation of a plot of land within the Sobe facility. U.S. forces rejected the committee's request that they be allowed to enter a building located in the center of the "elephant cage." After the inspection, Kenjin Kaneshiro, deputy committee chairman, expressed dissatisfaction with the stance by the U.S. forces and the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] on their on-the-spot inspection. He stated: "Since they failed to give us new explanations and rejected our access to the building, we could not conduct a sufficient (inspection)."

Based on documents submitted so far and the results of the field survey, the committee will listen to opinions from both the DFAB and land owner Shoichi Chibana (aged 47) at a 20 April meeting, and will continue to discuss whether or not it will approve emergency use of the facility.

When committee members arrived at the facility's administrative office 300 meters from the "elephant cage" after 1700 in the afternoon, they were given a general explanation about the facility by Naha DFAB officials and the U.S. side. Shortly before 180C, they entered the "elephant cage" under the guidance of Naha DFAB officials and the U.S. side. Although the committee requested permission to enter a building in the center of the facility, the U.S. forces rejected the request based on "guarding secrecy." Committee members walked on a veneer board spread over green grass to a tract of land owned by Chibana, and they confirmed the actual condition of the plot of land based on a map provided by the U.S. side.

The committee's inspection lasted about 40 minutes. After the on-the-spot inspection, Kaneshiro said: "They gave us a rough explanation based on the map. Although committee members asked a few questions about the facility and the plot of land at issue, we were not given new explanations. The Naha DFAB emphasized that the facility is important at any rate. Because our access to the building was rejected, (the inspection) is insufficient."

Japan: Okinawa Political Party Leaders on Joint Declaration

OW1904141696 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 8

[Article "Comments by Local Political Party Leaders in Okinawa" from unattributed feature: "There Are Many problems — Land Usage After Return, Local Oppostiion to Relocation — Joint Declaration Makes Clear 'Maintenance of Troop Strength'"]

[FBIS Translated Text]**Positive Appraisal for Indicating the Direction of Japan-U.S. Relations**

Kokichi Iramina, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Okinawa Prefecture Federation: I highly appraise the joint declaration for reconfirming the policies of both countries; for reconfirming democracy, freedom, and an open economy as the common values on both sides; and for indicating the basic direction of Japan-U.S. relations in the 21st Century.

The solid relationship of alliance between the two countries contributed significantly to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region after World War II. It will continue to be the foundation of robust economic growth in this region in the future. In the sense that the people should support the security alliance, the LDP Okinawa Prefecture Federation offers its support, and will exert utmost efforts to seek solutions to the base issues.

Expansion of the "Far East Clause" Is Impermissible

Zenshun Arakaki, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] Okinawa Chapter: The joint declaration is, in effect, an amendment of the security treaty which aims to reinforce the functions of the U.S. bases, and ensure stable use of these facilities in exchange for the return of the Futenma base and other facilities. The fact that the major decision on expanding the "Far East clause" [Article VI of the Security Treaty] to a "global scale" was made without Diet deliberations and was an act of contempt against the Japanese people.

The Japan-U.S. security treaty, which obliges Japan to provide U.S. military bases, is the source of all evil. It should be abrogated as soon as possible. The SDP Okinawa Federation will exert efforts to fight for this.

Historical Crime of Upgrading Alliance Relationship

Masaharu Kina, secretary general of the Okinawa Socialist Masses Party: The Japan-U.S. summit meeting and the joint declaration were intended to offer a "tangible" answer to the problem of U.S. military bases on Okinawa. In reality, this was full of treachery. We can even say that by relocating U.S. bases mainly within Okinawa, it has committed a historical crime, because Okinawa has been discriminated against and abandoned for the third time in history, and the military alliance between Japan and the United States has been upgraded.

Provisions such as the use of civilian airports and sharing of goods and services during an emergency enhanced U.S. national interests, and Japan has given up its sovereignty. We are determined to stand in the forefront of the struggle to safeguard the peace constitution, oppose war, and defend peace.

Equal Sharing of the Cost of the Security Alliance

Seizen Hokama, secretary general of the New Frontier Party Okinawa Chapter: The joint declaration features the reconfirmation of the Japan-U.S. alliance as a deterrent to the various destabilizing factors in the Asia-Pacific region in the post-Cold War era, including PRC-Taiwan relations and the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and the redefinition of the security alliance. Through a thoroughgoing national debate, if the Okinawan people and the majority of the Japanese people are in favor of this, people in the whole of Japan should share the cost of the security alliance equally. If the Japanese people are affirmative only in principle, but take a negative position when it comes to specifics, the Okinawa base issue will never be resolved.

Do Not Use the Occasion as a Means To Make the Bases Permanent

Seiken Akamine, chairman of the Japan Communist Party [JCP] Okinawa Chapter: It is significant that the "declaration" regards the security treaty as an absolute, and confirms that the reduction of bases can only take place in a manner "compatible" with the treaty.

The agreement on the Futenma base issue was in response to the Okinawans' demand. We should never allow this to be used as a means to strengthen the bases and the security arrangements, and to make them permanent fixtures. The struggle has just begun. The JCP will work for an upsurge in public opinion and in the mass movement to defend the peace principle of the constitution, to oppose this major negative revision to the security treaty, and for the complete removal of U.S. bases.

Sacrifices Should Not Be Imposed for the Benefit of the Major Powers

Masahiko Takara, chairman of Komei Okinawa: On the surface, although the joint declaration calls for the reduction of bases, it strongly argues for strengthening the security arrangements. This may lead to reinforcement of the base functions, and relocation of bases within the prefecture may generate further problems.

The message of the Okinawans, who have suffered for 50 years since the war, to the world is: "A peaceful society with no bases," "a society where human rights and humanitarianism are upheld." Even the complex political world needs to go back to human beings as its starting point. We will strongly argue that the tragedy of the localities should not be overlooked, and sacrifices should not be imposed for the benefit of the major powers.

Realistic Steps Should Be Taken To Achieve Progress

Noboru Shimajiri, representative of Sakigake [Harbinger] Okinawa Chapter: Although reactions [to the joint declaration] may be mixed, in view of the present world situation, I basically approve of the document. However, this should not be taken as an irrevocable concept in the future. We must consider all possibilities — maintaining the status quo, revision, and abolition — to be responsive to the trends of the times. I believe the task of the political authorities is to pursue the ideal of removing all bases, weapons, and wars — not only from Okinawa, but from the face of the earth — while also taking a realistic approach in working for further progress, even though the results may not be totally satisfactory.

Japan: Commentator on Security Cooperation in Japan-U.S. Summit

OW2204045396 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by Takashi Inoguchi, senior vice president of the United Nations University: "Japan's Roles in Regional Security Being Expanded"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If we take a look at the sequence of events that led to an agreement on the issue of the realignment and integration of military bases in Okinawa at the summit, it began with the incident of U.S. soldiers raping a child last fall. Then, Okinawans, enraged by it, strongly demanded action on the base issue, and, subsequently, the Japanese Government, particularly the people from the two coalition partners — Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — made a similarly strong demand on it. The United States in turn strongly demanded Japan to take actions to boost its preparedness in dealing with contingencies in the Asian region.

According to the agreement, Futenma Air Station will be returned to Okinawa in the next five to seven years; Air Force units therefrom will be removed to Kadena Air Base while those of the Marine Corp will be removed to Iwakuni Air Base; and Japan will have better access to the U.S. military bases to form an emergency system against major disasters and crisis conditions in the country. In particular, Japan's actions to boost its preparedness against contingencies — with the aim of building a crisis management system — will represent a departure from the past practice. So far, there has been a restraint on the actions inasmuch as such actions required prior consultations.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States, the world's only leading country left (with the Soviet Union having disintegrated and with Russia now being so occupied with its domestic problems), has been aware of its big responsible position, but the rising isolationism within the country coupled with the increasing national financial problem has made its extensive involvement in the security activities rather difficult. Consequently, the U.S. involvements have been limited to those cases wherein its strategic interests were at stake.

In all regions of the world, regional security systems are being built in the way the United States considers appropriate for these regions — by the United States forming allies and semi-allies (for instance, Russia in the former Soviet Union region) if the United States could make such commitment, by forming collective security organizations (like the NATO in Europe) if such collective security systems were feasible, by establishing regional security organizations (like the Organization of African Unity) if there already were regional cooperative organizations. In the Asian and Pacific region, the main axis of such functions has been put on the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

Not only the United States and neighboring Asian countries, but also a certain segment of the population of Japan are against Japan taking an independent path for itself. In fact, now being formed is an agreement by the governments of Japan and the United States that the two countries should get involved in the regional security issues actively in cooperation — with Japan not running away from conflicts. With the presidential election coming at the end of this year, the U.S. President needed to score a good diplomatic achievement on this opportunity to visit Japan.

Fortunately, an agreement which reflects the positions of the two countries has been reached. To take the problem of the U.S. military bases for instance, the agreement made on it is one which blends the demands of both sides — covering the reversion of the bases, the realignment and integration of the bases, and the freer use of the bases [for Japan]. Of course, there cannot be an agreement which can satisfy all the parties concerned in every aspect. We should praise the efforts the two leaders made in order to reach an agreement in these difficult days (when there are such problems as those of housing loan corporations for Hashimoto and Whitewater for Clinton to deal with). The leadership displayed by Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton should also be lauded.

In resolving the great issue of redirecting the alliance of the world's two biggest economies with the 21st century up ahead, however, the existing environment now is not necessarily favorable. We must say the efforts for it are only starting. That is the reason why I say the governments and the people of the two nations need to discuss and study about it and make increased efforts to succeed in it.

Japan: Editorial Discusses New Security Alliance

OW2204064096 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr Morning Edition p 6

[Editorial: "The Bright and Dark Sides of the New Security System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Few will object to the view of the U.S. Government sources that the summit held between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Tokyo on 17 April was the "most important Japan-U.S. summit since the end of the Cold War." The summit was epoch-making in that it redefined the U.S.-Japan security alliance as the "cornerstone of stability and prosperity in the Asian region" and promised to promote work and action attendant on the summit.

However, what does this "importance" bring to the two countries and Asia in a medium and long-term perspective? It is not so easy a task to discern advantages and disadvantages or costs. Moreover, it will be necessary to surmount various obstacles in order to receive the full support of the peoples of the two countries.

The U.S. Perception Has Changed

The "old" U.S.-Japan security treaty plainly showed a scheme in which the Soviet Union was assumed to be a potential enemy and Japan was to be defended by the United States in compensation for Japan's provision of bases for the United States. As a result, Japan was conscious of its indebtedness to the United States due to the "onesidedness" of the treaty. On the other hand, the "interests of the United States" necessary for the maintenance of the security system had been buried in oblivion. In short, there was a strong impression that the balance of payments had been tipped in favor of Japan.

It can be said that the two countries had been in that situation simply from force of habit even after the end of the Cold War. It was quite customary for "economics" to come to the fore at Japan-U.S. meetings. Especially, since the inauguration of the Clinton administration, which advocated "rebirth of the United States and economics first policy," it sometimes happened that the leaders of the two countries had had bitter exchanges throughout summits, sowing discord. Voices calling for "redefinition of the security treaty" had been raised by both countries, but the U.S. side in fact was not so enthusiastic about it.

What changed the situation decisively was the heightening of an anti-base movement triggered by an unfortunate incident that occurred in Okinawa last September. Furthermore, the tension between the PRC and Taiwan in the Taiwan Strait, as well as unfathomable moves of North Korea, accelerated the change in the situation.

It became necessary for the United States to emphasize not only as a principle but as a true intention that firm maintenance and reinforcement of the U.S.-Japan security treaty are indispensable to stability in the Asia-Pacific region with which the U.S. also has a relationship; that is, "they are in the interests of the United States itself from a strategic point of view." To the Hashimoto administration, which had been searching for a clear redefinition, a series of misfortunes turned out to its advantage.

It is good to correct an image that shows the lopsidedness of the security treaty. It is important to restore and improve the spiritual health of both countries. In the reality of international politics, what makes stability in the Asia-Pacific region "as firm as a rock" is no other than the alliance between Japan and the United States, which are destined to face each other across the Pacific Ocean.

Frankly speaking, moreover, it is possible that many of the Asian nations will basically welcome this system, under which Japan will promote its participation in regional security in alliance with the United States, without being too far ahead of other countries.

Meanwhile, however, Japan itself has come to explicitly and formally accept a Japan-U.S. joint declaration on security alliance, under which 100,000 military personnel will be maintained in the Asian region, including 47,000 in Japan. This will inevitably arouse a strong opposition and a sense of disappointment among the people around the bases. There is a deep gap between a new security structure, which has national, macro-level logic, and the people around the bases who have to bear an actual burden.

Deep-Rooted Objections

The consolidation and reduction of military installations including the Futenma Air Station are a great forward step, but they are the last resort taken under a very rigid limitation — "without diminishing the capability and combat readiness of the U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa." As a result, Japan has to bear an immense amount of cost. Furthermore, from the standpoint of the inhabitants, the relocation of bases is likely to become the "relocation of complaints."

Japan has come to take the responsibility for reviewing the guideline to Japan-U.S. defense cooperation in connection with the definition of the new security alliance as the "cornerstone of the Asian region." This guideline also contains a number of unclear elements. The greatest problem will be the fear that eventually Japan will be asked to give its cooperation that is contrary to the "no-war clause" of the Constitution in establishing a security system that covers the whole of Asia.

Furthermore, there will be a persistent objection that further continuation of defense policy in alliance with the United States will eventually impair the independence of Japan as a nation.

Meanwhile, some Americans have a strong distrust of the new security alliance. The mainstream is represented by people who were once famous for advancing a theory that Japan is a country of a different nature. They question as to why it is necessary for the United States to participate in and sacrifice itself for the security of "rich countries" like Japan or Asian nations on their way to economic development.

There is an air of isolationism or nationalism that echoes the contention of Pat Buchanan, who created a great sensation for a while as one of the Republican candidates for the presidential election.

The road ahead of the new security alliance is rough. The Japanese and U.S. Governments have yet to endure ordeals. So long as the Japanese Government maintains this system, it must make every effort for the standardization of the costs of the security alliance and for the alleviation of the burden imposed on the people around bases. Meanwhile, the Japanese Government should promote a national discussion about the security issue, and the people should never be utterly ignored concerning the promotion of future defense cooperation.

We would like the United States also to make an effort to diffuse among its grass roots the perception that its contribution to stability in Asia serves the best interests of the country. The United States had impaired its friendly relations with Japan in the past through its intolerant nationalism as well as self-righteous action that gives the highest priority to economics. The United States should not repeat such a folly. There are vast military installations in Japan, which is quite different from the United States in area. We would like the United States to regard such unreasonableness as its own pain and to continue its effort to consolidate and reduce the installations in Japan.

International Solidarity Should Be Made the First Axiom

Furthermore, to make the security alliance a system which seeks genuine peace that has no potential enemy, Japan and the United States should maintain a posture that makes international solidarity the first axiom through constant conferences, and should promote close, cooperative diplomacy to prevent conflicts in advance.

Japan: Editorial Views Japan-U.S. Joint Statement

OW2104233096 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Is Okinawa Going To Be a Starting Point in 'Redefining' the Treaty? We Are Concerned About Expanding and Altering the Interpretation of the Treaty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Japan-U.S. summit, which was supposed to have been held last November, was held on 17 April. Following the summit, a Japan-U.S. joint statement on security issues was announced, and subsequently, the two top leaders gave a joint news conference. In both the joint statement and the news conference the two leaders emphasized the need for a security system which will cover Asia and the Pacific areas in contingencies. Indeed, it can be said that their target is to "redefine" the security treaty.

In light of the fact that 50 years have passed since the war ended, the people of Okinawa entertained the hope that the two leaders would take this opportunity to respond to the strong desires of the Okinawans by announcing concrete plans for resolving the problems of the enormous U.S. military bases on Okinawa, which have tormented the people of this prefecture and have made their lives so difficult. There was no such announcement, however. Nor was there even a hint of such an intention. We must say this is regrettable.

One of the most important points in the announced joint statement is the part that says: "They reaffirmed that the U.S.-Japan security relationship, based on the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, remains the cornerstone for maintaining a stable and prosperous environment for the Asia-Pacific region as we enter the 21st century." Another important part is that saying: "The two leaders agreed on the necessity to promote bilateral policy coordination, including studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that may emerge in the areas surrounding Japan and which will have an important influence on the peace and security of Japan."

The Japanese Government so far has taken the stand that Japan cannot exercise its collective defense right as it is restricted by its Constitution. As such, these expressions in the statement should be regarded as a revelation of the intention to expand the security system from one covering two countries to one covering Asia and the Pacific, though they are written rather vaguely out of consideration for Japan.

Are the Bases Going To Be Here Permanently?

The joint statement refers to the issue of the military bases on Okinawa, standing on the grand premise of that intention. It says, "In particular, with respect to Okinawa, where U.S. facilities and areas are highly concentrated, the President and the Prime Minister reconfirmed their determination to carry out steps to consolidate, realign, and reduce U.S. facilities and areas consistent with the objectives of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security" and "the two leaders took satisfaction in the significant progress which has been made so far through the 'Special Action Committee on Okinawa' (SACO) and welcomed the far reaching measures outlined in the SACO Interim Report of April 15, 1996. They expressed their firm commitment to achieve a successful conclusion of the SACO process by November 1996."

So far, the Japanese Government has insisted that the U.S. military bases on Okinawa are performing very important roles in maintaining security, and has emphasized time and again that, therefore, large-scale realignment and reduction of the bases would be difficult. The joint statement at the summit, however, envisages going further from the present system into an expanded security framework covering Asia and the Pacific. If that happens and the military bases on Okinawa come under that framework, that will mean that the military bases on Okinawa will become even more permanent and that the large-scale realignment and reduction of the bases sought by the prefectural people will never be possible.

The Futenma Air Station, which the Okinawans have so strongly wanted returned, will be returned in five to seven years from now. That in itself should be welcome. However, except for some actions like those on returning about half of the Hokubu Training Ground and moving the site for live ammunition artillery exercises that are currently conducted over Prefectural Highway 104 to the mainland, most of the actions are relocations within Okinawa. That will be fine with people of the areas from which the bases will be removed. But to the people of Kadena-cho and Yomitan-cho, to which the functions of Futenma Air Station and other facilities will be moved, it will only mean that living conditions will get worse. It is only natural that the people of those areas are already raising their voices of objection against the moves.

Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota, who flew to Tokyo on 17 April, explained to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto these problems that will come with the move of the bases within Okinawa, and called on the government to deal with the problems responsibly. The people of the mainland might think there has been a big advance made on the question of military bases on Okinawa now that Futenma is set to be returned.

But the reality is that Okinawa will have to face new, complicated, and difficult problems. We should recall that 20 years have passed since an agreement was reached on the return of the Naha Military Port — on the condition of Okinawa providing a replacement site for it. The issue of finding a replacement site has not been resolved to date. One should be able to see from this how difficult it is to relocate the bases within the prefecture.

Work of Problem-Solving Only Starting

The Japan-U.S. summit, which redefined the military base issue and the security treaty, reminds us of 24 years ago when Okinawa was reverted to Japan. At that time, administrative right over Okinawa was returned to Japan and Okinawa was returned to the administration of the mainland. But almost all the military bases were left as they were, and the Okinawans' desire to return to the level of the mainlanders' life has never been realized. Now, a quarter of century later, this Japan-U.S. summit took up the question of consolidating, integrating, and reducing the military bases on Okinawa, and decided to return some of them and relocate some of them. But, in turn, by redefining the security treaty, the two countries may now be moving toward expanding the security system to cover Asia and the Pacific, which could mean a change in Japan's position on the collective defense right.

The initial plan of numbering U.S. troops in Japan at 47,000 was scrapped, but that does not matter much. The joint statement declares the United States will maintain "about 100,000 troops" in Asia and the Pacific, thus making clear the intention of redefining the security treaty.

The situation has changed much since the Social Democratic Party decided to recognize the Japan-U.S. security treaty. We wonder if there is a control system functioning on how far the security alliance can go. There are possibilities that the government actions are infringing on or deviating from the provisions of the Constitution. We are also concerned that neither the Diet nor the people are debating this point seriously.

To add on the issue of the military bases on Okinawa, if the people of Japan are now relieved, thinking "the military base issue of Okinawa is finally resolved," then we must say that this is nothing more than jumping to a wrong conclusion. Even if we suppose the military bases are returned or relocated as planned, almost all the U.S. military bases will remain located on Okinawa, and there will not be much change in the condition of the military bases on this island. The work of realigning and reducing the military bases on Okinawa has only started. The work of problem solving is only starting now.

Japan: Editorial Views Security Cooperation in Joint Declaration

OW2104144396 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 2

[Editorial: "Guideline to Post-Cold War Japan-U.S. Security Alliance: Prime Minister Must Exercise Leadership in Emergency Response Issue"]

[FBIS Translated Text]**Contribution to Stability in Asia and the Pacific**

The greatest "mission" of the present Japan-U.S. summit, the redefinition of the Japan-U.S. security alliance ("Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security: Toward an Alliance in the 21st Century"), starts with a meaningful passage that terms the Japan-U.S. relationship "one of the most successful bilateral relationships in history."

In the past, the United States has referred to this relationship as the "most important bilateral relationship in the world." However, in a context directly relating to security, this is the most impressive phrase that has been used in a Japan-U.S. summit.

In reality, the substance of the joint declaration can be regarded as a second amendment to the bilateral security treaty from the long-term point of view. This is because this document clearly indicates that "the future security and prosperity of Japan and the United States are closely related to the future of the Asia-Pacific region."

For sure, with the temporary disappearance of a common threat, the USSR, and the end of the Cold War, the security alliance has reached a turning point. However, this cannot be the basis of a premature decision to scale down security arrangements. Even if we disregard the tensions on the Korean peninsula and the PRC-Taiwan crisis over the presidential election in Taiwan, there is no arguing that destabilizing factors still exist in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in East Asia.

In terms of its national interests, the United States cannot remain indifferent to the impressive economic development taking place in this region. For Japan, an emergency in its immediate neighborhood in East Asia will directly affect its security. Southeast Asian countries, termed the growth center of the world, are keenly aware of China's military threat.

The maintenance of U.S. military presence in this region and the Japan-U.S. security alliance that complements this serve to arbitrate and coordinate the interests of these three parties. We must not forget that the foundation of this are the universal values of freedom, democracy, the market economy, and respect for human rights.

Therefore, there is great significance in the fact that U.S. intentions to maintain its 100,000-man forward deployment in Asia and the Pacific, including its present troop level in Japan, has been reconfirmed. The international community will welcome the fact that Japan and the United States clearly declared their determination to take responsibility for peace and security of the world based on the bilateral security treaty.

The United States showed great enthusiasm in the joint security declaration. This is manifested in its agreement on the Futenma base in Okinawa, which was thought to be difficult. While this might have been the result of serious U.S. concern about the sudden upsurge of cynicism about the security alliance in Japan in the aftermath of the unfortunate rape incident, this major concession is also an indication that the United States has, once again, decided to give top priority to security in its policy toward Japan.

On the other hand, this will also require great efforts from Japan. Japanese and U.S. leaders decided to begin a study on responses to possible emergencies that may occur in the region around Japan. In practical terms, this will require Japan to cooperate seriously and effectively with the United States in the event of an emergency in the Far East. Although an acquisition and cross servicing agreement (ACSA) was signed immediately before the summit to facilitate a successful meeting, this applies only to "peacetime."

Japan now has to face several issues that it has tried to evade for years, such as whether it can allow the use of civilian airports to support U.S. military operations in case of a conflict in around Japan. It has already been pointed out that the government's constitutional interpretation that the exercise of the right of collective defense is prohibited will be an obstacle. If Japan merely temporizes on this issue, the U.S. goodwill in agreeing to return Futenma will be wasted. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's true worth will be tested by whether or not he can resolve this issue, which would have been impossible under former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. Three Market Issues To Be Solved at Working Level [subhead]

The Japan-U.S. summit also agreed on cooperation to resolve the three pending economic issues expeditiously. Bilateral economic relations have improved since President Bill Clinton's inauguration in January 1993. The U.S. trade deficit against Japan has been reduced and there has been great progress in bilateral cooperation at the private sector level.

At present, the emphasis of the overall debate on Japan-U.S. economic friction has shifted to specific sectors. Discussion of these business sectors is not suitable for summits.

The two governments disagree on the Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement, third sector insurance, and the Japanese photo film market. With regard to the semiconductor agreement, foreign semiconductors now take up 27 percent of the Japanese market share. The accord's initial goal has been reached and discussions are ongoing at the private level. The results must be respected. As to the film market, the Fair Trade Commission started an investigation into corporate business transactions in February.

Regarding insurance, the United States is defending its vested interests, and demanding restrictions on the participation of Japanese companies in third sector insurance — such as insurance for injury — which is a sector midway between life and nonlife insurance. Working-level officials of both countries should engage in patient negotiations on all three issues.

Japan: Ikeda's Statement on Current Lebanon Situation

OW1904130596 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 19 Apr 96

["Statement" by Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda on the current situation in Lebanon on 19 April; place not given; from the "What's New" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. It is deplorable that Israeli shelling on April 18 killed and injured members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and many civilians. This incident cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever. Japan urges all the parties concerned including Israel to stop using force immediately. Japan expresses its sincere sympathy to the victims and their bereaved families and also to the injured.

2. Japan is seriously concerned about the negative impact that the worsening Lebanese situation is having on the circumstances of the Middle East peace process. At this juncture, the international community must do its utmost to advance the Middle East peace process, and Japan intends to continue to extend as much assistance as possible for this purpose.

Japan: EU Proposes Trilateral Private-Sector Chip Pact

OW1904121796 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 19 Apr 96

[By Nobuaki Fukai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 19 KYODO — The European Union (EU) proposed Friday [19 April] that Japanese, U.S. and European semiconductor makers should draw up a trilateral agreement to replace the Japan-U.S semiconductor agreement which expires July 31, EU sources said.

The proposal came when European Commission Vice President Leon Brittan met with International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara before the opening of a three-day meeting in Kobe of trade ministers from Japan, the United States, the EU and Canada.

Tsukahara did not object to the idea, the sources said.

At the bilateral meeting, Brittan also expressed support of Japan's opposition of a U.S. call to renew the Japan-U.S. microchip accord, a Japanese official said.

Brittan protested the idea of setting numerical targets or using any form of managed trade, the official said.

Tsukahara reiterated Japan's position that the 1991 semiconductor accord should be allowed to expire because it has fulfilled its role and is becoming meaningless because the foreign presence in the Japanese chip market is rising, he said.

The bilateral pact, which the U.S. considers successful, calls for foreign share of the Japanese market to rise steadily above 20 percent. Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry says the share topped 30 percent in the October-December quarter.

Brittan also complained about the way the pact determines the nationality of semiconductors according to capital affiliation, the official said.

Under the pact, chips made by Japanese-affiliated chip makers abroad are defined as domestic products, which the EU argues discourages Japanese chip suppliers from investing in Europe.

Brittan also said he wants to discuss ways of promoting the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) — a partnership being negotiated between the U.S. and the EU to mutually repeal tariffs on semiconductors and other information technology-related products — at the quadrilateral trade talks which begin Friday evening.

Tsukahara said he also expects to talk about ways of reaching the accord at the talks.

Meanwhile, Tsukahara met bilaterally with Canadian International Trade Minister Arthur Eggleton the same day. They agreed to discuss the ITA at the quad meeting.

Japan: Hashimoto Criticizes EU Tariffs on Chips

OW2204085196 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto criticized the European Union [EU] on Monday [22 April] for refusing to remove tariffs on semi-conductors although it was seeking to join Japan-U.S. sector talks.

"Japan and the United States impose no tariffs (on semiconductors), but the EU has not said it would remove its tariffs. It's unfair," Hashimoto told reporters.

He reiterated Japan's determination not to extend the Japan-U.S. semi-conductor accord which expires at the end of July.

Japan maintains the pact is no longer necessary as foreign chip makers have adequate access to the Japanese market. But the United States is insisting on renewal of what it sees as its most successful trade agreement with Japan.

The European Union has indicated it wants to take part in the pact if it is extended.

Vice Trade Minister Tomio Tsutsumi told a separate news conference Monday he would welcome European Union participation in private level microchip industry talks. "The semi-conductor industry is becoming internationalized and at present the European Union can participate in the private sector talks," Tsutsumi said. On the EU's request to join government-level sector talks between Japan and the United States, Tsutsumi said: "It is difficult to answer that question because we claim the accord is supposed to end in July."

Japan: Tokyo, EU To Hold Ministerial Talks on Deregulation

OW2204101196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO — Japan and the European Union (EU) will discuss deregulation, telecommunications and other issues of mutual concern at their annual ministerial meeting in Brussels next Sunday, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday, [22 April].

Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said at a news conference the two sides are also likely to coordinate their positions on the council meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on may 21-22.

At the talks, Japan and the EU may touch on macroeconomic and trade issues expected to be raised at this year's summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized economies in Lyons, France, on June 27-29, he added.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda is expected to represent Japan at the upcoming Japan-EU ministerial gathering. He is also likely to visit South Africa to attend the general meeting of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which opens Saturday.

Japan: Hashimoto Calls for 'Composed' Talks on Defense

OW2004000596 Tokyo KYODO in English 2330 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto called Friday [19 April] for "composed and constant" talks on how Japan should deal with possible emergencies in the Far East within the framework of the constitution.

Hashimoto made the remarks to a group of reporters traveling with him in Moscow, where he was attending a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers and Russia on nuclear safety.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — the two smaller parties that together with his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) make up the coalition government — would not object to such discussions, he said.

Over the past several decades, the LDP and the SDP have been staunch rivals in discussions over defense issues.

Hashimoto brushed off criticism that those who advocate Japan should take stronger defense measures in the event of an emergency in the far east may form a new political group to lead reorganization of the political groupings.

He also ruled out an early general election for the house of representatives, saying the current situation in Japan cannot afford such due to several pending issues.

Japan: Hashimoto Statement on Moscow Visit

OW2004173496 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1332 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Statement by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Moscow — place not given — on 20 April; live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hashimoto] Thank you very much for joining us. The summit on nuclear safety has been successfully concluded. A decade after the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, we, the heads of eight states, including Russia, gathered to confirm the importance of international cooperation for securing safety of atomic power and management of nuclear materials. I think this has been a very significant meeting.

Enhancement of international cooperation in this field is proof of the fact that Russia's political and economic reform is making rapid progress after the conclusion of the Cold War. Also, it was very meaningful that we could receive Ukraine as a member of the summit — I think this was very significant for future international cooperation for coping with problems in Chernobyl.

Taking this opportunity, we also had fruitful talks on international affairs, including the current situations in Lebanon and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In particular, when we discussed the Lebanese situation during the dinner last night, I proposed the following points: hostilities in the region should be halted immediately; the international community should concentrate on diplomatic efforts; and, as a tangible measure to achieve those objectives, we should expect a lot from the efforts of foreign ministers now gathering in the region, and support their achievements. These proposals were documented, and it became the consensus of the group-of-eight leaders.

At the nuclear safety summit, I emphasized the following points:

Japan is the world's only nation that actually experienced the misery of being a victim of nuclear attacks. Therefore, I believe the Japanese people are extremely sensitive about safety of nuclear power and the importance of nuclear arms reduction and nuclear nonproliferation. On that ground, as a part of international cooperation for nuclear safety, Japan stressed the importance of regional cooperation. In particular, as a member of Asia, Japan revealed its plan to host a multinational conference on nuclear safety by Asian nations in Tokyo sometime this year.

Also, Japan stressed its sincere desire for an international ban on nuclear waste dumping at sea.

From the standpoint of a nuclear weapon victim, we noted each nuclear-armed nation should voluntarily place nuclear wastes produced by dismantlement of nuclear weapons under the safeguard mechanism of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. At the same time, we strongly called for an early conclusion of the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty], expressing Japan's readiness to try its best to promote the negotiations. Based on the achievements of the nuclear safety summit, I would like to express Japan's readiness to take more active roles in reinforcement of international cooperation for nuclear safety and promotion of the CTBT talks and other arms reduction efforts.

Next, I would like to report to you about results of my meeting with President Boris Yeltsin. We had wide-ranging, outspoken, and very fruitful talks on Russia's reform policy, bilateral relations, and international affairs. I think that, through the summit, I successfully established favorable personal friendship with President Yeltsin. The talks will become a political booster to make well-balanced progress in overall bilateral relations.

This is my first trip to Russia in the last seven years. During that seven-year period, however, Russia underwent really drastic changes. The international community has been greatly interested in Russia's reform efforts, and I highly rate President Yeltsin's reference to his resolve to firmly maintain the reform policy. My long-standing position is that Japan should continue to offer cooperation to Russia as long as Russia carries out its reform policy. Taking this opportunity, we desire to establish genuine friendship with Russia as our important neighbor.

This time, Japan and Russia confirmed to further promote bilateral relations based on the Tokyo Declaration, which was formulated on the initiative of Mr. Yeltsin. Also, we agreed on the significance of revitalization of foreign minister-level dialogues. To do so, we agreed to resume the working team for conclusion of a peace treaty — I think this agreement is a great political achievement.

At the same time, we agreed to continue negotiations on fishery framework talks on Japanese fishing boats' operations in the waters off the Northern Islands [southern Kuril Islands], although these negotiations have been facing rough going. Both sides recognized the need to try harder to reach an accord in this field. I think this is another important achievement.

I have been greatly interested in the issue of Russia dumping nuclear waste at sea since I left Tokyo [for this meeting]. I brought up this topic as my request. Mr. Yeltsin clearly said Russia will sign the revised annex of the London Treaty before the end of this year, and will not dump nuclear waste even before the signing the treaty. This was reconfirmed at today's nuclear safety summit, and I rate this very highly.

I wish to reinforce the security dialogue with Russia. On this topic, President Yeltsin and I reached an accord on a Moscow visit by Defense Agency Director General Hideo Usui later this month. I believe Mr. Usui's trip will expand political dialogue in this field, and strengthen confidence between the two nations.

Mr. Yeltsin and I recognized and agreed on the importance of promoting relations between Japan and Russia in the Far East region. I believe this will certainly contribute to reinforcing ties between Japan and the Russian Far East.

This year, Japan and Russia are going to mark the 40th anniversary of normalization of bilateral diplomatic relations. Mr. Yeltsin and I closed the talks hoping that, on the 19 October anniversary, we both can exchange messages to celebrate resumption of ministerial talks and working team negotiations on the peace pact.

I also met Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. We met as long-time friends, and no specific problem currently exists between the nations. On the meeting, I just want to say it was held in a very good atmosphere.

Thank you.

Japan: Hashimoto Answers Questions in Moscow

OW2104034096 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1341 GMT 20 Apr 96

["Question-and-answer" session from Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's news conference to Japanese and foreign correspondents at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified official] Now, we will start the question-and-hour session. Those of you who have questions, please raise your hand.

[Suzuki] My name is Suzuki, and I am from the JIJI News Agency. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for giving this conference despite the fact that you must be very tired.

I would like to ask you two questions. The first question concerns the issue of radioactive waste, which you mentioned as one of the achievements you have made during this visit to Russia. In Russia, they are short of facilities for both storing and disposing of radioactive waste, and it is expected that they will probably against request support for projects to build such facilities. My question concerns how Japan plans to deal with such a request. This is one of the points that I would like to ask.

The other point concerns the Korean peninsula. Mr. Prime Minister, you did not touch on this point at the Japan-Russia summit talks that ended just now. What sort of opinions did you exchange on the Korean peninsula? And in particular, what is Russia's reaction to the proposal for quadrilateral talks that the leaders of the United States and the ROK made at their talks on 16 April? Based on this reaction, Mr. Prime Minister, how do you feel about the realization of quadrilateral talks in the future? I would like to ask you about these two points.

[Hashimoto] First of all, with regard to the processing of radioactive wastes, Japan is already engaged in cooperation with Russia in building storage facilities in the Far East . . .[pauses] I am sorry I am not speaking articulately perhaps because of lack of sleep — so that Russia need not dump its radioactive wastes into the oceans. I hope that these facilities will be completed as soon as possible. If everything goes well, I think they will be completed by the end of this year. When these facilities are completed, we will not have to worry about dumping in Far Eastern waters.

As for the disposal of radioactive materials produced in the course of dismantling nuclear weapons; to be honest, I felt at one time that every country that has either produced or possessed nuclear weapons should take responsibility for disposing of them. However, concerning the storage issue, talks have already been conducted between the United States and Russia. If Japan is asked to cooperate in this, we will probably provide cooperation in settling this problem.

Coming to the second point on the Korean peninsula — in my talks with Mr. Yeltsin, it was Mr. Yeltsin who asked me what I thought of the current situation on the Korean peninsula. I told him I was very concerned about the recent situation. I said my stance toward the issue is that I am watching developments in the Korean situation and hoping for self-restraint from all parties concerned. Under these circumstances, a proposal was made through the recent talks held between President Clinton and President Kim Yong-sam for holding the so-called quadrilateral talks. A proposal was made for holding talks with China and North Korea, as well as the United States and the ROK without setting any preconditions.

I have great expectations for the talks. However, I do not have sufficient information to comment on the possibility of holding such talks. This is what I have frankly told the president. However, I told him that I hope the talks are held. Mr. Yeltsin also stated that it would be desirable for the talks to be held and added that, in case no favorable results are achieved, both sides will probably have to work out some other plans. That is what was said, and we did not go further in discussing the issue.

[Valdamov, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] I am Valdamov from TASS News Agency. Mr. Prime Minister, judging from what you have just said, it seems that you have been able to establish very nice, friendly relations with President Yeltsin. Can this friendship be compared to, say, the Ron-Yasu relationship that once existed between [former Prime Minister Yasuhiro] Nakasone of Japan and [former President Ronald] Reagan of the United States? And is there any possibility that the relations between our two countries will be improved on the basis of this friendship? In your talks with the United States, you once stated — with a bamboo sword [which is used for Japanese fencing practice] in your hand — your determination to achieve results even at the risk of your own life. In your talks with Russia, do you have the same determination?

[Hashimoto] I have no idea what expressions Mr. Gore [as heard] used, nor whether he made the remarks to express his expectations for Japanese relations with the United States or with Russia.

When I had talks with President Clinton in Tokyo just a few days ago, Mr. Clinton gave me a piece of advice: You will be the first one to hold summit talks with Mr. Yeltsin but what is of importance is for you to be really on good terms, to become good friends with him.

When I met Mr. Yeltsin at our discussions, I told him what Mr. Clinton said and asked him if it is alright for me to report to Mr. Clinton at the dinner tonight that we have become good friends. Mr. Yeltsin laughed heartily, and said: That's right. He said that's right. Then, Mr. Yeltsin and I made it a point to report to Mr. Clinton together: Look at us. We have become friends.

I think we have really become good friends. However, the fact that we have become good friends does not mean we no longer have any differences. We have built a relationship that enables us to assert our positions while exerting efforts to find points of compromise.

Our agreement to continue discussions on a framework for the fisheries talks, and the discontinuation of disposal of radioactive waste at sea was precisely reached under such a friendly relationship.

[Unidentified reporter, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] I am from INTERFAX, Russia. Can you explain the relations between Russia and Japan at present? Please tell us how the territorial dispute will affect bilateral relations. The director general of the

Japanese Defense Agency [DA] will be visiting Russia. If you know the dates, please tell us.

[Hashimoto] First, about the territorial issue. In the Tokyo Declaration that Mr. Yeltsin himself concluded and signed, both sides agreed that negotiations would be continued to resolve the territorial issue so that a peace treaty can be concluded at soon as possible, thus fully normalizing bilateral relations. During the present meeting, I think that the fact that President Yeltsin not only confirmed the Tokyo Declaration but also agreed in a positive manner to activate foreign ministerial-level and working-level negotiations on concluding a peace treaty after the presidential election reflects Russia's position that the two countries need to cooperate and make progress to settle the issue as early as possible.

Regarding the DA director general's visit, please wait a minute. [Leans over to ask a Japanese official] This will last for three days, 27, 28, and 29 April. I hope this will broaden the scope of political dialogue between the two countries,and help enhance the relationship of trust between the two parties.

[Unidentified official] Next question please.

[Komatsu] I am Komatsu of ASAHI SHIMBUN. In the summit meeting this morning, Mr. Prime Minister, you discussed the Monju incident in Japan and argued for the importance of openness and transparency. The Monju incident is, certainly, not only a science and technology issue; it also gave rise to skepticism among the local residents with regard to nuclear power administration. Mr. Prime Minister, personally, what lessons did you learn from the incident? Please enlighten us on this.

[Hashimoto] As the reporter just stated, I mentioned the accident involving the fast breeder reactor Monju in Japan last year at this morning's summit meeting, because I would also like the other leaders to be acquainted with the lessons from the incident.

Since there are reporters here from overseas, I will make a brief explanation. Although the cause of the accident has not been formally determined, what happened seems to be that there was a thermometer in the secondary cooling system where sodium circulated. It is believed that the sleeve covering the thermometer broke due to vibration and caused the accident. The problem in this accident is that a large amount of sodium leaked from the spot where the sleeve broke, and there has not been any leakage of radioactive substances.

However, personnel in the field, and the public corporation which manages the facility were incredibly incompetent in dealing with this massive leak of sodium. First, in the time it took for them to detect the accident. Then, in how they dealt with the accident. Further, in the time it took them to report to the authorities and the inaccuracies in the report. In addition, when the incident was made public, parts of the video footage were deliberately edited. This series of blunders made the accident even more controversial. For the local residents near Monju, the local government, and all concerned parties, this only served to strengthen their skepticism and anxiety.

After the incident occurred, the government has been investigating and looking into measures to prevent a recurrence. It is doing everything in its power to look into what caused the accident, disclose information obtained in the process, consider what can be done to prevent a recurrence, and think of what else has to be reconsidered in light of this accident. The Nuclear Safety Commission, which is independent from the Science and Technology Agency, is now investigating the causes of the accident and formulating measures to prevent a recurrence by tapping a broad range of specialist knowledge.

Since there is no way to absolutely eliminate unexpected problems from human actions, the question is how to detect the problems as quickly as possible, and how the damage from these problems can be kept to the minimum. The most important thing is to disclose information on what happened so as not to increase unnecessarily the distrust and anxiety among the parties concerned and the local residents.

The thing is, mistakes in handling the Monju incident have made this not only an issue for the local area, but also significantly amplified anxiety about fast breeder reactors in general, and even overall nuclear power administration.

We learned a lot from this incident. However, the most important thing is, to detect trouble as quickly as possible and to deal with it. Above all, institutionalizing a system of information disclosure and transparency. We need to create an environment in which the people can, at least, trust the facts released, not look at them with skepticism, when something happens, in order to restore trust in nuclear power administration. These are the lessons we learned from the incident, and I believe I have been able to share them with the other leaders.

[Unidentified official] Ladies and gentlemen, although I am sure you still have many questions to ask Prime Minister Hashimoto, I am really sorry to say that time is up...

[Hashimoto interrupts] I think we can still have one more question.

[Unidentified official] Okay. Then please make the question brief.

[Smirnov, in Russian fading into Japanese translation] I am Smirnov of the Russian paper NOVAK [as heard]. Mr. Prime Minister, you said you made President Yeltsin agree to accept the London Agreement. How did you do that? Prime Minister Hashimoto, do you have such an influence on President Yeltsin? I have one more brief question... [pauses] That is impossible? Then I will limit myself to one question.

[Hashimoto] That is a very tough question. Perhaps Mr. Yeltsin could read my mind. Maybe he thought I would raise the question, and decided he would respond in a way to make Hashimoto happy.

To answer the question more accurately, I believe probably Russia had intended to accept the London agreement in the near future even if I did not make the request. And since Russia originally had such an intention, when I made the request, Mr. Yeltsin made the decision to accept the agreement before the end of 1996. If that is the case, Mr. Yeltsin's decision represents an important gift for the future not only to the Japanese people and the countries near the sea area of nuclear waste disposal, but also to the generations of our children and grandchildren. If my request played any part in that decision, no matter how small that might be, I am really pleased.

[Unidentified official] Thank you. With this, we will end Prime Minister Hashimoto's news conference for Japanese and foreign correspondents.

[Hashimoto] Thank you.

Japan: Hashimoto Optimistic About Peace Talks With Russia

OW2004153396 Tokyo KYODO in English
1520 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto voiced optimism Saturday [20 April] that Japan and Russia will be able to resolve a long-standing territorial row to pave the way for a peace treaty and full-fledged bilateral ties.

Hashimoto said his talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday had not only brought a reaffirmation of the Tokyo declaration, but also the pledge to reopen ministerial-level discussions on a peace treaty after the Russian presidential election in June.

The declaration, issued during Yeltsin's state visit to Japan in October 1993, pledged to solve the row over Japan's demand for the return of Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu Islands and the Habomai group of islets based on the principles of law and justice and to work for the early conclusion of a peace treaty.

Speaking at a news conference after a multilateral nuclear safety summit, Hashimoto said he and Yeltsin had built a good rapport that would help to resolve remaining bilateral problems.

"We really have become good friends, but that does not mean that our differences have disappeared," Hashimoto said. "But I think we have built a relationship that will enable us to listen to our respective contentions and make efforts to find areas for compromise," he said.

Hashimoto, who arrived in Moscow on Friday, said warming relations were also reflected in Yeltsin's pledge that Russia will stop dumping nuclear waste into sea off its Far East coast.

He said he expects a "political dialogue" during defense ministerial talks slated for April 27-29 would contribute to building confidence on a broad scope.

The disputed islands, which Japan calls its Northern Territories, were seized from Japan by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

The territorial dispute has prevented both sides from entering into full-fledged economic cooperation despite the end of the cold war.

Japan: Hashimoto Returns Home From Moscow 21 Apr

OW2104044396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0435 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto returned to Japan on Sunday [21 April] from a weekend multilateral nuclear safety summit in Moscow.

In bilateral talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the two leaders reaffirmed the 1993 Tokyo declaration on bilateral territorial disputes and pledged to reopen ministerial-level talks on signing a peace treaty after the Russian presidential election in June.

The declaration, issued during Yeltsin's state visit to Japan in October 1993, calls for solving the almost 50-year-old row over Japan's demand for the return of Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu islands and the Habomai group of islets based on "the principles of law and justice."

Japan: Defense Chief's Russia Visit Slated for 27-29 Apr

OW2004000496 Tokyo KYODO in English
2343 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 KYODO — Japanese Defense Agency Secretary General Hideo

Usui will visit Russia April 27-29, Japanese officials said Friday [19 April].

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto proposed the visit to Russian President Boris Yeltsin when they met at the Kremlin for a working dinner to begin a two-day summit on nuclear safety by Group of Seven industrialized nations and Russia.

Yeltsin accepted the overture, they said.

Japan: Hashimoto Proposes Asian Nuclear Confab in 1996

OW2004101496 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 20 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Saturday [20 April] proposed holding an Asian nuclear conference this year.

Hashimoto made the proposal came during the day's morning session of the nuclear summit held among the Group of Seven industrialized nations plus Russia and Ukraine.

Japan: Senior Official: DPRK 'Very Likely' To Accept Quad Talks

OW1904121996 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — North Korea will eventually accept a proposal for four-way talks aimed at securing a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, a senior foreign ministry official said Friday [19 April].

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it is "very likely" for Pyongyang to take part in the talks that plan to bring together North and South Korea plus China and the United States.

"North Korea has been driven into a corner," the official said.

The comment came in response to a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman's remark Thursday that Pyongyang is weighing the possibility of the proposal jointly announced by South Korean president Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President Bill Clinton earlier this week.

North Korea has been a potential threat to peace and stability in east Asia. Its recent violations of the armistice accord on the Korean peninsula have concerned South Korea and other countries.

Japan: Tokyo Sends High-Level Foreign Ministry Official to China

OW2204082796 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 20 Apr 96 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the recent agreement made at the Japan-U.S. summit talks to promote a study on emergency situations in the Far East, on 19 April the government sent Kunihiko Makita, deputy minister [shingikan] of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, to China, which is increasingly becoming weary of the agreement, to explain the intent of the study.

At the 17 April news conference, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said: "We need to study what we can do under the current legal system." It seems that the official will explain to China that the Foreign Ministry, on the basis of such a policy [as the prime minister explained], will "promote the study strictly within the framework of the Constitution," (according to a Foreign Ministry source).

Japan: LDP Team Leaves for Beijing To Meet Chinese Leaders

OW2104042896 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 21 KYODO — A nine-member mission from the ruling coalition partner Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) left for Beijing on Sunday [21 April] for talks with president Jiang Zemin and other Chinese leaders.

The mission, led by Masajuro Shiokawa, head of the LDP's General Affairs Council, is scheduled to confer with Jiang on Tuesday.

The meeting will be the first occasion to sound out China's reaction to a Japan-U.S. joint declaration affirming closer and broader-based bilateral security ties.

The LDP delegation will tell Chinese leaders that the new Japan-U.S. alliance is aimed at ensuring peace in the Asia-Pacific region and not at countering China, mission sources said.

The declaration, issued Wednesday during U.S. President Bill Clinton's state visit, does not mention China.

The mission will also voice concern over China's recent saber rattling in the Taiwan strait and its growing military spending, and will appeal for efforts to ease regional tension, the sources said.

The mission will propose that senior diplomats from the United States, Japan and China meet regularly to discuss ways of ensuring stability in the Asia-Pacific region, they said.

It will also propose exchanges between senior Japanese and Chinese military officers to promote disclosure of data on the two countries' militaries to help build mutual confidence, they added.

Japan: Hashimoto Invites Canadian Prime Minister To Visit

OW1904150596 Tokyo KYODO in English
1409 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 19 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Friday [19 April] invited Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to make an official working visit to Japan around this fall since Chretien was forced to cancel a trip slated for last fall, Japanese officials said

Hashimoto extended the invitation during a 25-minute bilateral meeting in Moscow just before they and other leaders from the group of seven industrialized nations plus Russia and Ukraine begin a two-day summit on nuclear safety.

Chretien, who canceled the planned visit due to domestic problems, thanked for the invitation.

Hashimoto said he appreciated Canadian troops' help for a Japanese contingent in their U.N. peacekeeping cooperation duties in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The Japanese leader also said he has initiated deregulation on imported housing materials, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto and Chretien shared the same view that the nuclear summit should also consult on Russia's bid to join the Group of Seven.

Japan: Central Bank Notes Broad Signs of Economic Improvement

OW1904130796 Tokyo KYODO in English
1150 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO — The Bank of Japan (BOJ) upgraded its economic assessment in its quarterly economic outlook issued Friday [19 April], saying a moderate economic recovery is under way in Japan.

In its assessment, the Central Bank said the Japanese economy is expected to gradually shift to an autonomous recovery, albeit a moderate one, led by corporate capital spending and private consumption.

"We reaffirmed further a moderate recovery. Obviously, there is a step forward in our judgment," said Masayuki Matsushima, director of the BOJ's Research and Statistics Department.

In the previous outlook three months ago, the Central Bank said the economy is returning to a recovery trend with prospects for a moderate growth path led by private demand later in the year.

Although it is necessary to keep an eye on whether the momentum of economic recovery will continue, signs of improvement are increasing on a broad front, Matsushima said, citing improvement in corporate profits and business confidence, rapid rises in public and housing investment and a steady recovery in capital spending and personal consumption.

Matsushima said the effects of monetary and fiscal policy measures taken last year are expected to weaken in the latter half of fiscal 1996 but that the weakening of such effects would be more than covered by a pickup in capital spending and individual consumption.

For monetary policy, the quarterly report suggested the Central Bank will continue its present accommodative credit stance, saying it is appropriate to examine economic and financial developments carefully, placing an emphasis on securing the basis for an economic recovery led by private demand.

The BOJ said demand and production are growing because of stimulative monetary and fiscal policies. The recovery in business and consumer confidence on the back of the reversal of the yen's appreciation and pickup in stock prices have also helped.

The sustainability of the economic recovery depends on the extent to which the autonomous growth momentum of private demand strengthens under persistent structural adjustment pressure because the effects of government policies are expected to weaken over time, it said.

Growth in corporate capital spending is likely to accelerate and encompass a wider coverage of industries. Investment by large manufacturing companies is expected to continue its recovery and that by small or non manufacturers is about to gradually pick up, the Central Bank said.

The pace of recovery in personal consumption is also expected to increase, but it will likely remain moderate, it said.

Prices are expected to stop declining due to the yen's setback and a tighter domestic product market. They are unlikely to move upward because of an output gap and strong global competition, it said.

In financial markets, both short-term and long-term interest rates are higher than in December as the moderate economic recovery has now been discounted in the market, it said.

Under the circumstances, the economy seems to remain vulnerable to risks, such as a slowdown in overseas economies, as structural and labor market adjustment pressures will persist, the central bank said.

Saying it is a crucial time for the economy, Matsushima called for effective and timely implementation of structural policies, such as deregulation, to activate the potential of Japan's economy.

On the balance of payments, the Central Bank said exports are expected to grow on the back of the moderate expansion of overseas economies and the yen's weakening, but its speed is likely to be outpaced by the growth in imports. This will further reduce the nation's current account surplus, albeit at a slower pace than in the latter half of 1995.

Japan: Bank Head Says Recovery 'Will Not' Influence Monetary Policy

OW2204021396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0158 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 21 KYODO — Japan's Finance Minister Wataru Kubo on Sunday [21 April] suggested the nation's economic recovery may depend on monetary steps because of the severe state of government finances.

At a press conference after a Group of Seven (G-7) financial meeting, Kubo said, "I explained to our G-7 partners that Japan faces an urgent task of restructuring its finances, as well as ensuring an economic recovery, which is a top priority of economic policy."

But Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita said at the same press conference that the central bank's monetary policy will not be affected by any pressure either at home or abroad.

"The reconstruction of finances will not influence our monetary policies," Matsushita said.

Matsushita said restructuring the nation's finances includes efforts toward "healthy contents and structure" of the government's coffers, not only representing a cut in government spending.

The central bank governor added, however, "It is important to consolidate the groundwork of the economy until it rides on a self-sustaining recovery track."

Kubo said the other G-7 nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States — expressed deep concern over Japan's problem of the failed seven housing loan companies.

Kubo said he told G-7 counterparts that the House of Representatives recently passed the fiscal 1996 budget which includes a 685 billion yen allocation for the liquidation of the mortgage companies.

"There were no sharp questions from other countries, and so I believe I can win their understanding," Kubo said.

North Korea

DPRK: ROK To Import Missiles From U.S. To Prepare for War

SK2004112996 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0922 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets plan to import 200 million dollars worth of weapons from the United States within the framework of war preparations against the North, a radio report from Seoul said.

The puppets asked their master to export some 90 units of surface-to-air missiles and anti-ship missiles.

DPRK Daily Denounces U.S. Republicans' Missile Defense Bill

SK1904140796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
0856 GMT 19 Apr 96

[NODONG SINMUN 19 April commentary: "Reckless Act of Pursuing an Arms Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Republican Party, claiming that the anti-ballistic missile treaty the United States concluded with the former Soviet Union is outdated, has been working out a new bill for developing a domestic missile defense system by ignoring the treaty.

The hard-line conservative forces of the Republican Party are attempting to pass the bill for a national missile defense system this year at any cost by revising some portion of the bill. Last year they presented this bill to the President for ratification after it passed Congress. However, the bill was vetoed.

The Republican Party is moving to work out a bill for a national missile defense system which they claim is intended to protect the whole of U.S. territory from what they call guided missile attacks. The Republicans' move is another dangerous sign of the beginning of a new arms race.

The anti-ballistic missile treaty concluded between the United States and the former Soviet Union worked as a basis for concluding the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty.

However, the U.S. Republican Party is trying to open the door to a new arms buildup by nullifying this treaty. The Republicans are claiming the bill is aimed at defense from others' attack. But this is nonsense. The United States has an enormous nuclear arsenal, and is expanding it even to space.

The United States is attempting to turn Nimitz-3 intercontinental ballistic missiles into intercept missiles, spending $2.5 billion on this in the next four years. No other nation in the world has such an enormous missile offensive system as the United States.

Nevertheless, U.S. Republicans are attempting to describe their maneuvers for the establishment of a new missile system as aimed at defense. This is nonsensical. Their maneuvers are not aimed at defense but offense.

The attempt of U.S. Republicans to work out a new bill for the National Missile Defense System will not only destroy the strategic equilibrium between Russia and the United States, but gravely affect the general situation of the world including the Asia-Pacific Region.

With regard to U.S. Republicans' plan for a bill on a national missile defense system, Russia has assumed a hard-line position. Russia has stated that if a national missile defense system is set up in the United States, it will lift all the restrictions stipulated in the anti-ballistic missile defense treaty now in effect.

Besides, Russia points out that it made excessive concessions to the United States in the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty. Thus, Russia's parliament is dragging its feet on ratifying the treaty.

If the U.S. Republican forces persistently seek the abolition of the anti-ballistic missile defense treaty, it will bring about another round in the arms race between Russia and the United States. Then, the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty will come to naught.

The misguided ideas of the U.S. Republicans will result only in destroying the order of world peace and give rise to another cold war. The Republicans are attempting to satisfy the appetite [paerul pulliochumyo] of monopolistic military industry business firms by opening a new door for an arms buildup on the pretext of what they call security. Thus, they are trying to create an atmosphere favorable to them in the wake of the upcoming presidential election by pressuring the incumbent ruling forces.

An arms buildup and military confrontation will bring nothing good to the United States. The hard-line conservatives of the U.S. Republican Party would be well advised to ponder over what their reckless military moves will cause.

DPRK: ROK-U.S. Summit Decried as 'War Confab'

SK2104101496 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean
to South Korea 0300 GMT 21 Apr 96

[Commentary by O Il-yong from the "Hour for Officers and Men of the South Korean Army": "Who is the Ringleader Aggravating the Danger of War?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Clinton, who visited the ROK on 16 April, held a summit that day with Kim Yong-sam on Cheju Island.

At the Cheju summit talk they discussed what they called joint measures for the present situation on the Korean Peninsula and held a war confab. The joint measures they announced are considered a grave challenge to our nation's aspirations and desires and to the expectations of the world's peaceloving people.

Today our masses and peaceloving people of the world demand that the Armistice Agreement be turned into a peace agreement to ensure durable peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Nevertheless, during the current Cheju summit talks, the ROK and U.S. authorities [hanmi tanggukchadurun] reconfirmed that the Armistice Agreement should continuously remain in effect and the ROK-U.S. joint defense posture should be further strengthened.

This illustrates that the ROK and U.S. authorities are not trying to eliminate such an outmoded way of thinking as that of the cold war era in resolving the issue on the Korean Peninsula.

In fact, since the cold war between the East and the West ended, considerable changes have been seen in the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The agreement pledging reconciliation and nonaggression and the joint denuclearization declaration were adopted between North and South Korea, and have been put into effect. Besides, North Korea and the United States have worked out a joint statement and the framework agreement that confirmed mutual recognition of sovereignty, noninterference in domestic affairs, nonaggression, and independent and peaceful reunification. They made public this statement and agreement to the world.

However, at the Cheju summit talks, while talking about what they call provocations by the North, they held a war confab, instead of examining military and working-level issues in order to sincerely implement these agreed documents.

When we recall the past, the state of tensions on the Korean Peninsula did not begin yesterday or today.

but has continued for scores of years. While the state of tensions has continually prevailed, ultramodern U.S. weapons have been constantly brought into this land, and as a result, the ROK has been turned into a military base the likes of which can rarely be seen in the world.

While constantly adhering to an arms buildup, the ROK and U.S. warmongers have introduced much equipment, including Patriot missiles and Apache helicopters, and assembled in the areas along the Armistice Line, large numbers of troops amounting to more than nearly half their entire military power, and all offensive weapons and means, including missiles, guns and tanks, as well as nuclear weapons and chemical weapons. As a result, the DMZ has turned into a completely militarized zone [wanjon mujangjidae].

In addition, the ROK and U.S. warmongers have staged provocative war exercises each day, and these exercises have gotten on the nerves [chaguk hanun] of the North in this area, while violently trampling underfoot the Armistice Agreement.

Since the beginning of this year, they have staged various types of northward aggressive nuclear war exercises in the skies, seas, and on the ground, including ROK-U.S. joint anti-submarine exercises, navy-air force joint military exercises, and [word indistinct].

Needless to say, whenever such a war exercise was staged, North- South dialogue that had been developing satisfactorily [choke palchonhanun] was ruptured and the situation moved rapidly toward confrontation and the brink of war.

It is clear to even a child that since the arms buildup, the war exercises, and military provocation severely get on the nerves of the dialogue partner, this will cause confrontation and give rise to a state of tension.

This being the case, under a situation in which the arms buildup, war exercises, and military provocations continue, peace cannot be guaranteed. Rather, it will only aggravate tensions. Therefore, we can note that the very ringleader for aggravating tensions is the bellicose ROK and U.S. group, which is running amok with an arms buildup, war exercises, and military provocation maneuvers against North Korea.

Under today's situation in which the danger of a northward aggressive war in this land is increasing with each passing day because of the ROK and U.S. authorities' continuous adherence to war maneuvers against the North, and in which the armistice system has been destroyed, it is the North's right [tangyonhan] to declare that it does not recognizes the DMZ.

Nevertheless, the ROK and U.S. authorities have ignored the proposal of the North to conclude a peace agreement that can ensure durable peace and replace the Armistice Agreement, which was long ago reduced to merely a scrap of paper. While attempting to lay the blame on self-defensive measures by the North, the ROK and U.S. authorities have called for implementation of the Armistice Agreement. We cannot but define this as a ridiculous act indeed.

Furthermore, by raving about fictitious provocations by the North, they have stressed the strengthening of the ROK-U.S. joint defense posture. This openly reveals their attempt to finally start an aggressive war of northward invasion by further strengthening their military ties.

Our masses have never asked for help from the U.S., which is several thousand kilometers away from this land, in defending themselves from the ROK. The danger of aggressive war, if it exists on the Korean Peninsula, is the danger of a northward war of aggression from the South, not one from the North.

Nevertheless, using the North's declaration that it would not recognize the DMZ as a pretext, the ROK and U.S. authorities are noisily talking about provocations by the North, even though the North declared these self-defensive measures to cope with the ever- increasing danger of a war of northward aggression. This was prompted by a trick to justify their northward aggressive war maneuvers by shifting the responsibility for aggravating tension onto the North.

Peace is not an issue which can be resolved only if one wants. The durable peace on the Korean Peninsula can be ensured only when the criminal maneuvers of the ROK and U.S. bellicose group, which is scheming to aggravate tensions by pursuing confrontation and war on this land, are brought to an end.

All the people, if they want to live in a peaceful world free from war, should rise as one in the struggle to drive the U.S. aggressors from this land and overthrow the traitorous Kim Yong-sam group, their stooges.

DPRK: New ROK Arms Imports Condemned

SK2204052096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0450 GMT 22 Apr 96

["Warmaniacs Hell-Bent on Arms Buildup" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA) — The South Korean ruling quarters plan to import 20 million dollars worth of weapons, including missiles for different uses from the United States.

NODONG SINMUN today, commenting on this, says that the anachronistic, anti-peace and anti-national arms buildup stepped up by the puppets is contradictory to the worldwide current towards disarmament and removal of lethal weapons and it is all the more serious in that the planned import synchronises with the more frantic war preparations of the Kim Yong-sam group against the North.

The analyst further says:

The Kim Yong-sam group is stepping up arms buildup by bleeding the people white. The puppets' arms buildup is a crime because they sacrifice the people, fill the stomach of the imperialist munitions complexes and put the nation on the altar of a nuclear war. Their crime cannot be pardoned at all.

We are watching with heightened vigilance the dangerous acts of the bellicose Kim Yong-sam group watching for a chance to invade the North, continuing shipping lethal weapons even after they turned South Korea into the largest nuclear arsenal of the United States in the Far East.

The Kim Yong-sam group should look squarely at the situation, stop running amuck and put an immediate halt to the arms buildup and military adventure against the North.

DPRK: 'War Frenzy' of 'Bellicose Quarters' Decried

SK2204054496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 22 Apr 96

"War Frenzy of U.S. Bellicose Elements Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA) — We will annihilate any aggressive forces encroaching upon our dignity and sovereignty with revolutionary optimism and conviction of sure victory. The U.S. bellicose forces must not misjudge our determination and will, lucidly see the reality and act with reason.

So says NODONG SINMUN April 21 in a signed article titled "Adventurous War Frenzy of Bellicose Elements".

The analyst of the paper says:

After the end of the Cold War, the United States has styled itself a sole superpower. It has become more elated after it "won" in the Persian Gulf War. It is now planning to unleash another war on the Korean peninsula, which is of military strategical importance.

Its strategical intention is to remove the bulwark of world socialism, bring the whole Korea under its control, invade the Asian continent with it as a springboard and establish American-style colonial control system by stifling Korean socialism centred on the popular masses.

The United States is coiling up tensions and aggravating military confrontation on the Korean peninsula in a bid to find a pretext for war.

The U.S. bellicose quarters do not show any affirmative response to our proposal for establishing a new peace mechanism and our initiative for signing a tentative agreement to put it into practice. They insist on the maintenance of the old and useless armistice system, an offspring of the Cold War, and are frantically staging war exercises in and around South Korea, steadily reinforcing their aggression forces there.

The Korean peninsula is placed under a dangerous situation of vacuum in view of security. It is very dangerous for the U.S. bellicose quarters to beef up their military strength in and around South Korea under such situation.

The United States and the South Korean puppet clique are waiting for a chance, fully ready for action.

No legal and institutional device which would guarantee armistice exists after the armistice system was broken. Under such condition, if the United States persists in dangerous military moves, it will inevitably lead to another war.

There is a limit to our patience and tolerance. We do not make empty words, and the mission of our People's Army is not confined to defence. If another Korean war breaks out, its character and scope will differ from regional disputes and its consequences are unpredictable.

DPRK: Russian Group Urges U.S. To Accept DPRK Peace Proposal

SK2204054896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA) — The "Working Russia" Movement in a recent statement expressed support to the just proposal of the DPRK Government to establish a new peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula and strongly urged the United States to respond to this proposal.

Recalling that the DPRK has made consistent and sincere efforts to create favourable conditions for establishing a system of preserving a lasting peace, the statement said:

However, the United States has increased the danger of war instead of striving for peace on the Korean peninsula.

If the new proposal of the DPRK Government is realised, a radical phase will come for easing tensions and achieving peace on the Korean peninsula and preconditions for reunification through confederacy will be created.

We demand that the Russian Government stop providing South Korea with uptodate combat facilities and actively join in the efforts to create conditions and climate favourable for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

DPRK: U.S., Japan Increase 'Military Collusion'

SK2204044796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, these days the United States and Japan have been further increasing their military collusion.

On 15 April, the Japanese foreign minister and U.S. ambassador to Japan signed the Japan-U.S. Commodities and Labor Exchange Agreement to expand the range of Japan's logistics support for the U.S. forces and strengthen their military and technical conspiracy and collusion.

The agreement stipulates that Japan shall provide the United States with 15 commodities and services, including food, drinking water, fuel, garments, parts, transportation, repair, and maintenance. The agreement also stipulates the extent of logistical support.

The agreement foresees Japan's supply of more weapons parts to the U.S. forces by further expanding the exception to Japan's three principles on banning weapons exports.

What is drawing attention here, in particular, is that Japan and the United States intend to maneuver in earnest to provoke a war on the Korean peninsula through this agreement. It can be clearly proven that a joint response by the United States and Japan to any contingency on the Korean peninsula is a basic crux of the agreement.

The military conspiracy and collusion that the United States and Japan have been further increasing heightens our due vigilance because of its criminal and dangerous nature.

DPRK Commentary Denounces ROK for 'Arms Buildup Maneuvers'

SK2204062396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1224 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Arms Buildup Maneuvers Challenging the Earnest National Desire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Korean puppets have been more frantically perpetrating the arms buildup maneuvers to provoke a war for northward invasion. According to a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Defense, the puppets are maneuvering to introduce modern lethal weapons worth approximately $200 million, including surface-to-air missiles and antiship missiles, from the United States. They include 46 warship- and submarine-launched Harpoon missiles and 45 (Skid Row) guided missiles for three new-type destroyers now under construction.

The puppets' arms buildup maneuvers are deliberate maneuvers to further aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula and an unforgivable challenge to fellow countrymen who earnestly yearn for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification.

In response to our proposal for making this year a year of peace and great national unity, all fellow countrymen in the North and South and abroad are vigorously participating in the grand reunification march to expedite the cause of the fatherland's reunification with united national strength.

In particular, to prevent the ever-increasing danger of war and ensure a stable peace, we advanced a proposal for replacing the outdated armistice arrangement with a new peace mechanism and, not long ago, a proposal for signing a DPRK-U.S. interim agreement.

Then, how has the bellicose Kim Yong-sam group responded to these sincere efforts by us? As has already been disclosed, the Kim Yong- sam ring has been leading the situation to a very dangerous confrontational phase since the beginning of this year, while conducting a large-scale war exercise one after another with outside forces. It has also flagrantly violated the Armistice Agreement and deployed heavy weapons and armed bandits in areas south of the DMZ on a large scale and turned it into a base for northward aggression.

The puppets mapped out the so-called medium-term national defense plan 1997-2001 at the end of last year. And, to implement this plan, the puppets have decided to invest 8.7 trillion won to introduce new-type missiles, all sorts of attack helicopters, and other latest war materiels and lethal weapons; and build all sorts of warships. This has been disclosed.

The Kim Yong-sam clique is desperately maneuvering to introduce more lethal weapons and war materiels, without taking any satisfaction from turning all of South Korea into an aggressive military base for outside forces—which is the largest forward nuclear base in the Far East and a showroom of lethal weapons—and leading the situation in the country to the brink of war in collusion with outside forces. The bastards are truly mad.

The attempt for arms buildup by the puppets is an escalation of the maneuvers to provoke a new war, an open challenge to us who are making every effort for peace and reunification, and an unforgivable antinational, antireunification crime.

The war commotions and arms buildup maneuvers recklessly perpetrated in South Korea show that the puppets are quite frantically seeking to launch a war for northward aggression and that the provocation of a new war on the Korean peninsula is a matter of time.

No one can be certain that the Kim Yong-sam ring—which is crazy about preparations for war, has lost reason and is running amok— will not ignite the fuse of war for northward aggression. This is all the more true because people have regarded the traitor Kim Yong-sam as a target who should be overthrown due to his dirty color as a conspirator involved in the traitor No Tae-u's slush fund scandal and because the traitor Kim Yong-sam is trying to find a way out from this situation by provoking a new war.

However, the Kim Yong-sam ring must not commit a rash and thoughtless action. We have already declared that we would crush the South Korean puppets by taking powerful self-defensive measures if they touch an inch of land and a blade of grass.

The arms buildup maneuvers by the Kim Yong-sam clique are linked to the provocation of a new war and will only hasten its destruction.

The South Korean puppets must immediately stop their reckless arms buildup maneuvers which will aggravate tensions and lead North- South relations to the worst confrontational phase.

DPRK: ROK Army Accused of Committing 'Provocations' Near MDL

SK2004041296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 20 Apr 96

["Provocations Near MDL" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — South Korean puppet army soldiers took a firing posture with 90mm recoilless guns and 12.7mm machine guns and fired automatic rifles near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) in the central and western sectors of the front on April 15 and 16, seriously getting on the nerves of the North, military sources said.

On the 17th and 18th, the puppets swayed machine guns and automatic rifles in these areas, inciting an atmosphere of confrontation.

More than 30 officers of the puppet army divided in eight jeeps showed up at an area near the MDL in the western sector of the front on April 14 and revealed their attempt at the invasion of the North, holding an adventurous confab of operation.

The ceaseless provocations are part of the deliberate and premeditated moves of the Kim Yong-sam group to create an excuse for igniting the fuse of a war against the North by causing a shocking incident near the MDL.

DPRK: NKP Denounced for 'Honoring' 19 Apr Fighters

SK2104061896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0609 GMT 21 Apr 96

["Third-Rate Drama of Traitors" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA) — Officials of the "New Korea Party" [NKP] including the traitor Kim Yong-sam made a farce of "honoring the memory" of the fallen fighters at the April 19 cemetery in Suyu-tong, Seoul on April 19. The puppet prime minister and other officials of the administration held a "ceremony" where they called for "respecting the main ideal of the April 19 uprising."

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a deceptive drama that can be done only by such shameless traitors as the fox-like Kim Yong-sam group, an intolerable insult to the ideal of the April 19 uprising and a mockery of the people fighting to attain this ideal.

The news analyst says:

Independence, democracy and reunification were what the patriotic martyrs eagerly wished, shedding blood in streets during the April popular uprising.

For their sinister political purpose, the Kim Yong-sam group are deceiving and flouting the people by abusing the desires of the resistance fighters. This crime is never to be condoned.

The South Korean people will make the puppets pay a thousandfold price for this crime.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam Group Denounced for Suppressing Students

SK2004112796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0856 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — A meeting of the teachers and students of the university of construction and building materials production took place on April 19 to denounce the Kim Yong-sam group's fascist suppression of the just patriotic struggle of the South Korean students.

The speakers condemned the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique's bestial murder of students No Su-sok, Kwon Hui-chong and Chin Chol-won as a premeditated and deliberate act to crack down on the ever-mounting sentiments of the students and people in South Korea for independence, democracy and reunification at the point of the bayonet and bridge over their serious ruling crisis.

The anti-Kim Yong-sam struggle of the students and people from all walks of life in South Korea is an eruption of the pent-up grudge and resentment of them, who lost independence, democracy and the right to learning, and a just and patriotic struggle to revenge themselves on the murderers without fail, they noted.

They expressed firm support and solidarity for the struggle of the South Korean students and people who are now struggling at streets of resistance day and night.

They demanded that the Kim Yong-sam group renounce the fascist repressive moves at once and set free the unreasonably arrested students unconditionally and immediately, clearly seeing that the further they suppress the just struggle of the South Korean students, the nearer their doom will be.

DPRK: South Koreans Mark 19 Apr 1960 Uprising

SK2004114796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0921 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — South Korean students and citizens held ceremonies in Seoul on April 18 marking the April 19, 1960 popular uprising, according to a South Korean radio report.

At the April 19 cemetery, more than 100 members of bereaved families of the victims honored the memory of the victims who fought in protest against the puppet dictatorial regime, and the April 19 wounded society and other organisations held ceremonies and remembered the resistance fighters.

In the meantime, more than 5,000 students of Korea University held a ceremony at the April 19 tower and honored the memory of the resistance martyrs.

About 1,500 students of Seoul National University and students of the University of Foreign Studies held ceremonies on the campuses.

DPRK: Foreign Groups Support DPRK Proposal for Peace Mechanism

SK2204032096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0233 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA) — Signature campaigns supporting the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for establishing a new peace mechanism were held in foreign countries.

A meeting for starting the signature campaign supporting the DPRK's proposal was held in Madagascar on April 11 in the presence of the leaders of political parties and organisations and officials of the chuche idea study groups. Among them were the president of the Party of the Congress for the Independence, the acting chairman of the National Council of the Action Party for the Renaissance, the secretary general of the Monima Socialist Organisation, national chairmen of the Socialist Progressive Party, the Labour and Patriotic Movement Party and the Militant Party for the Realisation of Equality, the chairman of the Party for Defending Rights of the People, the secretary general of the Federation of Trade Unions of Malagasy Revolutionary Workers, the chairmen of the Solidarity Committee and the Society for the Study of Kim Chong-il's Works.

They heard an explanation about the current situation of the Korean peninsula and signed their names in the signature paper in support of the just proposal of the DPRK on behalf of all the members of their parties and organisations.

Manfred Kraxner [spelling of name as received], mayor of Wolfsberg city of Austria, signed his name in the signature paper on behalf of 35,000 citizens. It was also signed by 76 members of the Wolfsberg city branch of the Society for the Promotion of the Relations Between Austria and the DPRK.

On April 5, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the People's Salvation Front of Russia and members of its leadership signed their names in the signature paper in support of the DPRK's peace proposal.

DPRK: Ambassadors Hold News Conferences on Armistice Agreement

SK2204040396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In relation to the recent situation on the Korean peninsula, our country's ambassadors and charges d'affaires ad interim to Cuba, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Russia, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Romania, Syria, and Austria held news conferences between 8 and 16 April.

Functionaries of the press and reporters from each country participated in the news conferences.

Our country's ambassadors and charges d'affaires ad interim spoke at the news conferences. They first related the contents of a statement issued by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry on 22 February, a memorandum issued by the Panmunjom Mission of the Korean People's Army [KPA] on 8 March, a statement issued by the first vice minister of the People's Armed Forces on 29 March, a statement issued by a spokesman of the Panmunjom Mission of the KPA on 4 April, and a statement issued by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry on 12 April.

They insisted that the United States and South Korean authorities, which have violently infringed upon the Armistice Agreement, are wholly responsible for the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula. They said if the rascals unleash a war to the bitter end, they would not be able to escape from ultimate destruction [kudurun chosonbandoe omjunghan chongsega chosongdoendae taehan chaegimun chonjoguro chongjon hyopchongul nanpokhage yurinhaeon migukkwa namjoson tanggujaduregeitago naginhago, nomduri kunnae chonjaengul irukindamyon chonggukchogin pamyorul myonchi mot halgosirago malhaetsumnida].

They stressed that our people and People's Army, which uphold the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il as its supreme commander, will thoroughly annihilate [cholchohi somyolhago] the invaders and will uproot the source of war from the Korean peninsula [chosonbandoeso chonjaengui kunwonul songdurichae turonaegoya malkosirago].

Then, the ambassadors and charges d'affaires ad interim answered questions.

DPRK: Moldovan Communist Leader Interviewed on Visit

SK1904123096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0754 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 19 (KCNA) — The delegation of the Communist Party of the Moldovan Republic led by its First Secretary V.N. Voronin was interviewed by reporters at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on April 17.

V.N. Voronin said that they visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a genuine socialist country, for the first time, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, learned much and came to have a hope for the revival of socialism.

Ideological work is being carried on in a militant way in Korea and people are full of conviction of the victory of socialism, he noted.

No other than the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a wonderful idea in the history of the world and devoted his whole life to the struggle for its realisation, he said, adding that the Korean people and the world people deeply respect, revere and follow him and pay their respects to him.

Member of the delegation V.V. Sorochan said that the Korean people are advancing under the uplifted banner of socialism, firmly united in one idea. All the achievements in Korea are attributable to the embodiment of the chuche idea, he noted.

Member of the delegation L.S. Blik, member of the Central Committee of the party, said that Korea is firmly establishing chuche under the guidance of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The guidance of the supreme leadership of the DPRK definitely guarantees the future of Korea, he added.

DPRK: Bulgarian, Ukrainian Party Leaders Visit DPRK Embassies

SK2004111496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0900 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists), the Central Committee of the Unitary Communist Party of Bulgaria and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria sent a floral basket to the DPRK Embassy in Sofia in joint name on April 12 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

The chairman of the Executive Council of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party (Marxists) and members of the party's leadership, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Unitary Communist Party of Bulgaria and members of the party's leadership, the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria and members of the party's leadership visited the DPRK Embassy in Sofia and laid a floral basket before a portrait of President Kim Il-song.

The leading officials of the Ukrainian Communist Party and the Ukrainian Socialist Party visited the DPRK Embassy in Kiev and laid floral baskets and bouquets before the portraits of President Kim Il-song and the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the name of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party and the Political Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Socialist Party on April 10 on the occasion of April 15.

Ponomarenko, member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, said that the leadership exploits of Comrade Kim Il-song, who was an outstanding communist in the world, are very great and that the exploits he performed for the development of the international communist movement remain in the minds of the world communists.

DPRK: Group Leaves for Russia, Belarus; Syrians, Japanese Arrive

SK2004114396 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0949 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League headed by Secretary of its Central Committee Choe Hyon-tok left here today to visit Russia and Belarus.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Syria Arab-Korea Friendship Association and a delegation of the Council of Young Men's Association of Japan arrived here today.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Defeated Enemy With 'Hard-Line' Measures

SK2004135396 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean
0900 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Unattributed talk: "It Is the Greatest Honor and Happiness of Our People and Army To Uphold the Respected and Beloved General Kim Chong-il, the great and sagacious commander, as the Supreme Head [choego suwi] of the Revolutionary Armed Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our people and army regard it as the greatest honor and happiness to uphold the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, the ever-victorious iron-willed sagacious commander, as supreme commander and marshal of the DPRK. Our hearts are filled with a sense of absolute worship and loyalty and filial piety to the general.

The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: I regard it as a matter of pride that there is also in our country General Kim Chong- il, another general.

Today the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is being highly praised as the most outstanding, illustrious commander who cherishes dignity and disposition as a great military strategist, wisdom and leadership as a great politician, and noble moral character as a great human being.

Officers and men of our People's Army and our people warmly call the Great Leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il the respected and beloved general. This name reflects their sense of endless respect and praise toward Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has perfect traits as the outstanding great man capable of defending the people's destiny to the end by taking responsibility for it.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is an indomitable and unswerving general with outstanding strategy and peerless courage; he is an outstanding general with predominant ability and tactics capable of moving revolutionary armed forces and popular masses as one, and he is a great general with the warmest heart of a human being.

There is no such dignified and proud a people as ours who uphold the matchless great Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme head of the revolutionary armed forces.

Since our people uphold the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, the peerless, illustrious commander, our people have become the mightiest and dignified people who uphold the indomitable general who firmly defends our destiny. Our people enjoy the blessings of the leaders over generations.

The people's destiny is to be rescued by the leader [suryong] who pioneered the path of revolution for the first time. It is to be firmly defended by the leader [yongdoja] who has brilliantly inherited the cause of the leader [suryong] and is carrying it to fruition.

The greatest fortune for the people is to uphold the invincible general who is capable of defending their destiny. Indeed, our people are blessed by the leader [suryongbok] and by the general.

Our people's destiny was brilliantly pioneered and rescued by the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song. For our people, who were reduced to homeless, colonial slaves by the Japanese imperialist aggressors in the past, the great leader [suryongnim] was the sun of our nation and savior of our destiny. Thus, our people, respectfully calling General Kim Il-song the great leader [suryongnim], could tenaciously and unswervingly fight with confidence, looking up to Mt. Paektu where the leader [suryongnim] was.

By upholding General Kim Il-song, the iron-willed sagacious commander and a legendary hero of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fight, our people could finally greet the new morning of national liberation by destroying the brigandish Japanese imperialists. Moreover, since we upheld the great leader during the fatherland liberation war, our people could demonstrate their pride to the entire world as a most powerful and dignified people who defended the fatherland and the dignity of the nation by smashing the strong imperialist enemies for the first time in history.

Today our people highly uphold the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, who has the same dignified attitude and traits as those cherished by the Great General Kim Il-song, the invincible general who smashed two strong imperialist enemies during one generation.

The military tactics and strategy of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il are the same as that of the great leader [suryongnim], who always crushed the enemies with marvelous tactics by precisely understanding the enemy's weak points. The courage and will of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il are the same as that of the leader [suryongnim] who was unswerving and invincible, no matter how many they were and how strong the enemy attacked. The respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il's humanity is the same as the love extended to the fighters by the fatherly leader, who shared even a spoon of powder of roast rice with the fighters by always mingling with them.

Because our people uphold the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, who is exactly the same as the great leader [suryongnim], our people are confident that we can credibly smash the enemy in the future, no matter how strong and enormous that enemy may be, and brilliantly pioneer our destiny, just as our people's destiny was rescued and firmly defended during the wars against two strong imperialist enemies in the past.

This is the greatest fortune and pride for our people. Since we came to uphold the beloved and respected General Kim Chong-il, our people could always display pride as ever-victorious dignified people in the war of acute political and military confrontation with the imperialists, in which only the sound of guns and rifles was not heard.

Today's reality illustrates that if we retreat a step backward or make even a minor concession in the war of political and military confrontation with the imperialists, a grave consequence, in which the people's destiny is ridiculed, will be brought about.

Only the people who uphold the invincible general can be victorious in the war of confrontation. In our country where socialism is being built amid grave circumstances in which we confront the strong imperialist enemy, a serious war of confrontation, decisive in determining whether there will be war or peace, has taken place more than once or twice.

Whenever danger has befallen the fatherland and the people, the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il has responded to the imperialists' aggressive war provocation maneuvers with hard-line military countermeasures. He has crushed the imperialists' political and military pressure with a revolutionary offensive which has frozen the enemies' hearts with terror.

With a single order, in a heartbeat he made the entire army, all the people, and the whole nation, rise and smash the enemy's aggressive attempt with uncommon strategy. With magnificent spirit and matchless courage which showed that the right of choice lies not only in big countries but also in our country, he turned adversity into a favorable situation by driving the rascals into a corner. Indeed, with this outstanding leadership art, the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il always wisely led the war of acute military and political confrontation, which lacked only the sound of guns and rifles, to victory, thus creating miracles unprecedented in history.

Thus, the revolutionary people of the world, not to mention our people, highly praise the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il as the iron-willed sagacious commander who is defending world peace by smashing the imperialists' war maneuvers.

Because we uphold the respected and beloved general, the outstanding illustrious commander of the world, our people will display pride as permanently victorious people in the future, just as we were in the past, and as the most revolutionary people firmly defending the socialist cause.

Indeed, the honor and happiness of our people and army in upholding the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il as the marshal of the DPRK at the supreme head of the revolutionary armed forces cannot be compared to anything in the world.

During the worthwhile days when our people and officers and men of the People's Army fought by upholding the respected and beloved Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il — another outstanding and great commander whom the 21st Century brought forth — we came to keenly realize that General Kim Chong-il is the very destiny of our fatherland and of all of us, and is the symbol of victory and honor.

As directed by this faith which we cherished during the practical struggle, we will unswervingly fight by becoming guns and bombs defending with our lives the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander — the never-center [sunoebu] of the revolution.

Our fatherland, which upholds the respected and beloved supreme commander General Kim Chong-il, will remain an everlasting indomitable stronghold, and our socialist cause will be ever- victorious and invincible.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Thanks to Security Ministry, Workers

SK2004040996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0404 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent high acknowledgement and thanks to the Ministry of Public Security and a unit of the Korean People's Security Forces (KPSF).

Officials of the ministry and soldiers of the Chang Tong-hui Unit of the KPSF transported several thousand tons of materials to major construction sites in a brief period in hearty response to the order issued by him in March.

He also sent thanks to Sin Chol-ho, a section chief of the General Bureau of the Mining Machine Industry, Na Chong-kyu, chief of a barber shop under the Kaesong Municipal Welfare Service Management Office, and many other working people for having done good things for society and the collective.

DPRK: Kim Il-song's 'Outstanding Leadership Art' Noted

SK2004112596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0852 GMT 20 Apr 96

["Outstanding Leadership Art of Comrade Kim Il-song" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA) — Leadership art of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a most revolutionary and chuche-based one which gave full scope to the strength and wisdom of masses and turned the adversity into a favourable condition and misfortune into a blessing, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article quotes the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Comrade Kim Il-song led our party and people by setting a brilliant example of the art of leadership. He defended the revolutionary principle under all circumstances and conditions, and skilfully combined principle and adroitness in revolution and construction."

Comrade Kim Il-song led the Korean people to discharge their role in the revolution and construction by giving full scope to their creative wisdom and strength before anything else.

Already in his early revolutionary days, he was convinced that if there is an almighty being in the world it is not heaven but the popular masses. With the unshakable faith that there is nothing impossible to do in the world if the masses' wisdom and strength are brought into play, he always found himself among the masses and aroused them to revolutionary struggle sharing life and death, sweets and bitters with them.

It was his gifted capacity to deeply grasp the mind of man and move it. Comrade Kim Il-song was possessed of revolutionary faith and iron will towards the cause of socialism as well as rare ideological and theoretical far-sightedness and outstanding leadership ability. He led the Workers' Party and the people of Korea by setting a brilliant example of the art of leadership. He defended the revolutionary principle and skilfully combined principle and adroitness in revolution and construction.

A high degree of creativeness and adroitness based on revolutionary principle — this was an important principle and art in leadership that were maintained by Comrade Kim Il-song in the revolution and construction.

And, with matchless revolutionary sweep, Comrade Kim Il-song guaranteed incessant innovation and uninterrupted progress in all sectors of the revolution and construction.

During the period of the revolution and construction, he pushed ahead with all work with matchless revolutionary sweep, holding high the red flag.

He led the Korean revolution with an offensive spirit throughout his life.

For him, there was no impossibility. His art of leadership, with which he set the goal high in all affairs and unfolded the work audaciously and in a big way, occupied one height after another, was a major factor that helped the Korean people make ceaseless progress and innovation.

Another characteristic of Comrade Kim Il-song's art of leadership is that he found out the main link in the chain of all work, concentrated efforts on it, finished one by one and firmly took rein over all the links of socialist construction.

Comrade Kim Il-song was really a great master of leadership and an outstanding veteran statesman, who led the revolution and construction straight to victory with a most revolutionary leadership art throughout his life.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il 'Mt. Paektu-Type' General

SK2104061196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0606 GMT 21 Apr 96

["Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, Mt. Paektu-Type General With Matchless Grit" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA) — The respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is an unrivaled general who is identical to Mt. Paektu, a holy mountain of revolution, and a brilliant general who is leading the revolution and construction to certain victory, breaking through whatever rigorous storm.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a signed article.

The article quotes the great leader President Kim Il-song as saying:

"Comrade Kim Chong-il is possessed of indomitable will, grit, distinguished stratagem and commanding art befitting the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces and herein lies a guarantee for steady strengthening and development and certain victory of our revolutionary armed forces."

The article further says:

The outstanding traits of the respected General Kim Chong-il, who is leading our revolutionary armed forces with matchless grit find expression, first of all, in countering aggression by any formidable enemy, without the slightest wavering. And they also find expression in the fact that he makes a bold decision concerning all military affairs and carries them out in a big way and obtains the goal that he set himself, in the spirit of courageous attack.

His matchless grit stems from his noblest sense of responsibility and mission to take responsibility for the destinies of our country and people to the last and creditably carry the cause of chuche to completion. The chuche cause started by Comrade Kim Il-song is the most just one and accomplishment of the cause leads to the prosperity and development of our country and nation and guarantees the bright future of posterity and so it is necessary to fight it out to this end. This is the respected general's unshakable creed and steadfast outlook on life.

Let us wait and see who will win the final victory. This is his grit and confidence.

As the respected general, who has the world under his thumb with the grit befitting the greatest general in the world, leads our People's Army and people, they are filled with firm determination to consummate the Korean-style socialism with no fear about aggression by any formidable enemy.

The Korean-style socialism will certainly be accomplished thanks to the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il and thanks to the invincible People's Army and people, who are armed with the spirit to defend the leader with their lives as human bombs.

DPRK: 'Brillant General' Kim Chong-il Praised

SK2104061196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0606 GMT 21 Apr 96

["Respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, Mt. Paektu-Type General With Matchless Grit" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA) — The respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is an unrivaled general who is identical to Mt. Paektu, a holy mountain of revolution, and a brilliant general who is leading the revolution and construction to certain victory, breaking through whatever rigorous storm.

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The Korean-style socialism will certainly be accomplished thanks to the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il and thanks to the invincible People's Army and people, who are armed with the spirit to defend the leader with their lives as human bombs. [no quotation marks as received]

DPRK: Youth, Students Said Volunteering To Enlist in KPA

SK2204064396

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of reports on young people's meetings to volunteer to enlist in the North Korean People's Army (KPA) carried by Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean between 18 and 21 April.

At 0800 GMT on 18 April, Pyongyang Central Radio carries a 6- minute report on the meetings of youth workers in the Huichon Machine Tool Complex and the Hyesan Youth Mine to volunteer to enlist in the KPA. The announcer begins by saying the meetings were held on-the-spot "at a time when working youths across the nation are filled with the burning determination to demonstrate the mettle of heroic Korea in coping with the new war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets." After detailing the scenes of the meeting sites, including slogans placed at the sites and the people present, the radio carries brief recorded speeches delivered by Kim Yong-nam, a cadre member of the Kim Il- song Socialist Working Youth League (KISSYL) at the Huichon Machine Tool Complex, and two other young employees of the complex who vowed to enlist in the KPA.

At 1100 GMT on 18 April, Pyongyang Central Radio carries a 9- minute report on the meetings of youths to volunteer to enlist in the KPA which were held at the Academy of Sciences in Pyonghwa-ri in Panmun County and in Migok-ri in Sariwon. After describing the meeting sites, the radio briefly cites a speech by Kim Sun-nam, KISSYL secretary for the Academy of Sciences, then carries a one- minute recorded speech by Myong Yong-to, a researcher at the academy, who vowed to become "a rifle and bomb to resolutely defend the respected and beloved general." The radio also carries brief recorded speeches by KISSYL cadre members from Pyonghwa-ri in Panmun County and from Migok-ri in Sariwon.

At 1300 GMT on 21 April, Pyongyang Central Radio carries a 10- minute "on-the-spot report" titled of "The General's Soldiers Are Departing for the Outpost of Defending the Fatherland." The announcer begins by stating: "At a time when youth and students across the country are dashing along the sacred road of national defense, with a burning mind to smash in one stroke the new war provocation maneuvers of the aggressors, and thus firmly defend the country's sovereignty and the gains of the revolution by devoting their blood-boiling youth, in Pyongyang, the capital of the revolution, numerous youth and students are departing for outposts to defend the fatherland amid a warm send-off from working people, youth, and students in the city."

The announcer states: "This is the Potonggang Railway Station. The newly-enlisted soldiers who have resolutely risen up with surging indignation and hostile feelings against the reckless new war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique, and thus joined the KPA, are soon departing for the sacred outposts to defend the fatherland amid the warm send-off of youth, students, and workers in Pyongyang." The announcer describes the scene at the plaza of the Potonggang Station where youth, students, and people are gathered to send off the newly-enlisted soldiers. The announcer then interviews Choe Min-chol, first secretary of the KISSYL for the Potonggang District, and a graduate of a senior middle school in Pyongyang. During the interviews, the two state that "a grave situation has been created in our country due to the frantic new war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets," and "all facts clearly show the South Korean authorities' have already cocked the launching mechanism for northward invasion, so how can we ignore this acute situation? It is the mettle and tradition of our heroic People's Army, people, and youth to respond to fire with fire and to clubs with clubs."

The announcer states: "Our reliable newly-enlisted soldiers wearing KPA uniforms are entering the station compound. Numerous youth, students, and parents are wearing flower necklaces to warmly congratulate them on their joining the KPA." The announcer interviews an old war veteran residing in the Potonggang District who says: "My son is also departing for the outposts to defend the fatherland today. As a father, I cannot repress my pride and honor of enlisting my son in the great general's army." The announcer then interviews a newly-enlisted soldier who says: "It is the unanimous feeling of our newly-enlisted soldiers to stand at the head of the (?eight million) rifles and bombs as soldiers of the respected and beloved general. We will become the heroes of rifles and bombs to resolutely safeguard and defend the respected and beloved comrade supreme command."

DPRK: Kim Chong-il's Writing Strengthens Party, Revolutionary Ranks

962C0034A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 4 Jan 96 p 2

[Article by Pak Nam-chin: "A Programmatic Writing That Brought About a Turning Point in Strengthening and Developing Party and Revolutionary Ranks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, based on his scientific foresight into the historical inevitability of succession in the attainment of the revolutionary cause, has strengthened and developed our party and revolutionary ranks in a forward-looking manner so that the revolutionary cause of the great leader's generation can be carried forward toward its fulfillment generation after generation.

Under the leadership of the respected and beloved commander in chief [changgun-nim] — who has built up, strengthened, and developed our party and revolutionary ranks in a forward-looking manner — of particular importance is his writing published 10 years ago, on 3 January 1986: **For New Upsurges in Strengthening and Developing Party and Revolutionary Ranks and Socialist Economic Construction**.

At the time of its publication, a solid foundation had been laid in our country for carrying forward and attaining without fail the party cause, thanks to the brilliant foresight of the great leader and to the outstanding capability and greatness of the commander in chief. The highest mind of the party had already been firmly established to succeed to the ideology and leadership of the great leader; the organizational and ideological foundations of the party had been consolidated like bedrock, and the party leadership system was solidly established. This was a development of great significance, firmly guaranteeing the bright future of the chuche cause. As such, it was the most brilliant achievement in partybuilding and in strengthening and developing the revolutionary ranks. It was an indispensable requirement of our revolution to consolidate such achievements and vigorously advance the revolution and construction based on them.

With his scientific foresight into the urgent requirements in developing our party and the revolution, the respected and beloved commander in chief elucidated in depth in his writing the theoretical and practical tasks to be resolved in further strengthening and developing the party and revolutionary ranks. The work comprehensively covered all fundamental tasks in strengthening and developing the party and revolutionary ranks, including consolidating the ranks, cementing and developing party unity and solidarity, working well with the masses to band the broad masses closely around the party, and energetically conducting ideological indoctrination of party members and the working people. At the same time, the work also specifically elucidated the tasks and methods to generate new upsurges in socialist construction.

With the validity and contemporariness of its ideology and theory, the writing has displayed a great vitality in our revolution and construction. Today, when our party and revolution have entered a great transition period, its significance and vitality is growing further.

Its great significance lies, first of all, in that it marked a milestone by bringing about a turnaround in the consolidation of the party's organizational and ideological foundations for the succession and attainment of the chuche revolutionary cause.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out:

"To strengthen the indoctrination of party members and the working people around the party is extremely significant in fostering them to be true communist revolutionaries who are infinitely faithful to the party. This thereby ensures that they carry the revolutionary cause of our party generation after generation forward to its ultimate consummation."

In order to carry the revolutionary cause of the leader [suryong] generation after generation forward to its attainment, it is necessary to lay firm organizational and ideological foundations to realize the leadership of the successor, and to consolidate the party foundations with no letup as the revolution and construction move forward. Consolidating party foundations remains an important task even after the leadership succession issue is resolved.

In the writing, the great commander in chief clearly elucidated the tasks—and methods to accomplish them—for consolidating party foundations, including strengthening the cadre ranks and doing partybuilding work properly, consolidating and developing the party unity and solidarity generation after generation, and stepping up the indoctrination of party members and the working people about the party.

Our party, under the energetic leadership of the respected and beloved commander in chief, has closely adhered to, and thoroughly embodied, the ideology and theory shown in the writing. Our party, with a view to the future, consolidated its cadre ranks with people who are infinitely faithful to its *suryong* [leader] and its *yongdoja* [leader] and who are capable. In partybuilding work, it ensured the purity of the party ranks by holding fast to the ideology-first principle and the party principles. Our party firmly grasped the work of strengthening party unity and solidarity as the central task in partybuilding, deepening and developing it with no let up. Thus, it has strengthened in every way the ideological, volitional, moral, and ethical unity and solidarity of the party ranks with the *suryong* and the *yongdoja* in the center. Our party has conducted propaganda on the immortal achievements of the respected and beloved commander in chief in partybuilding and economic and cultural construction and in all other areas of the revolution and construction, in depth and breadth among party members and the working people. It also has conducted propaganda on the party's benevolent solicitude and concern, in depth and in a substantive manner, using a variety of methods. Thus, our party today has strengthened and developed into a loyal combat force, with the whole party upholding the great Comrade Kim Il-song as the eternal leader, rallying closely around the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, and thinking and acting only by the ideology and intent of their *suryong* and their *yongdoja*. This is the most precious gain made in partybuilding, and an outstanding revolutionary achievement of the respected and beloved commander in chief. Today, with the fatherly leader gone, all our party members and working people feel even more keenly and profoundly in their hearts the immortal revolutionary achievements of the respected and beloved commander in chief, and the sagacity of his leadership in strengthening and developing our party as the mighty revolutionary party capable of carrying forward the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation to its consummation, and as the party of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The significance of the writing also lies in the fact that it has banded the broad masses of people closely around the party and strengthened the chuche of our revolution in every way.

To attain the revolutionary cause of the leader to the last, it is necessary to consolidate the wholehearted unity of the party and the masses, as well as strengthen the working-class party organizationally and ideologically. Without support of the masses, the working-class party cannot maintain its existence, to say nothing of attaining the cause of the leader.

Since its founding, our party has set it forth as the basic task strengthening the party and revolutionary ranks to band the broad masses closely around itself, greatly emphasizing the work with the masses in every period and every phase of the revolution. In particular, our party put forth on 5 November 1985 a revolutionary guideline on thoroughly carrying through the mass line to band the broad masses closely around the party. This led to a new turnaround in the work with the masses. At the time of the writing's publication, the party was confronted with the extremely important task of banding the broad masses closely around the party by intensifying the work with the masses continuously while solidifying the results already achieved.

The respected and beloved commander in chief, carefully weighing this demand of the developing revolution, clearly elucidated the tasks and methods to do the work with the masses properly, ranging from arming functionaries firmly with the party guideline concerning work with the masses to establishing an orderly mass work system.

Our party, firmly grasping the ideology and guidelines shown in the writing, has unceasingly intensified work with the masses of all strata, tenaciously pushing the struggle to indoctrinate and remold all members of our society and band them around the party. Our party, in its work with the masses, firmly maintained the principle of appraising each individual invariably on the basis of his or her present ideology and deed, boldly trusting and embracing the masses with magnanimity, and indoctrinating them positively. For those trusting and following the party and showing enthusiasm in their performance, the party gave no discriminative treatment in sociopolitical life but entrusted them boldly with revolutionary tasks, appraising their performances and merits fairly. It was the thought of the great leader and the political philosophy of the respected and beloved commander in chief that a politician of small calliber cannot embrace the masses adequately and a narrow-minded politician is shunned by them. Thanks to the magnanimous, fair, and just government of our party that extends love and trust equally to all strata, all the people in our country today are devoted to the struggle for the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause, closely united around the party, highly proud of themselves being the legitimate masters of society, and optimistic of their future; the whole society has become a bright and harmonious large family.

The fact that the wholehearted unity of the party and the masses has materialized in our country and that the whole society has become a harmonious large family is, in its entirety, a precious fruition of the magnanimous government of the respected and beloved commander-in-chief Kim Chong-il.

The writing also has produced great results in socialist economic construction, too.

It elucidates how important it is to conduct socialist economic construction properly, listing the tasks and methods to generate new upsurges in economic construction. It emphasizes such tasks as developing science and technology, strengthening conservation systems and bettering the quality of products decisively in all branches and units, and improving the guiding method and work style of functionaries.

In the past, our party has thoroughly embodied the ideology and guidelines shown in the writing, grasping economic construction tightly and promoting it energetically. Thus, it could generate uninterrupted upsurges in economic construction, shattering the imperialists' blockade maneuvers.

The writing is indeed an immortal banner with epoch-making significance in accelerating socialist construction vigorously.

Today our party and people are faced with the heavy but honorable task of carrying forward and attaining brilliantly the revolutionary cause of the great leader, holding aloft the red banner of revolution and united in one mind around the respected and beloved commander in chief. In fulfilling this important revolutionary duty, it is extremely important to further strengthen the might of the party and revolutionary ranks. When all party members and working people are thoroughly prepared as revolutionaries, infinitely faithful to the party and the leader, and when the wholehearted unity of the party and the people is solidified further, our socialist sociopolitical position will be consolidated into an invincible fortress no force can break.

We will continue to thoroughly embody the ideology and theory shown in the writing of the great commander in chief. By so doing, we will strengthen the party and revolutionary ranks in every way, consolidate the socialist sociopolitical position, and carry forward and attain the chuche revolutionary cause brilliantly with the power of the wholehearted unity.

DPRK Article Urges Increased Awareness Against Ideological Invasion

962C0044A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 28 Jan 96 p 6

[Article by Choe Song-kuk: "Heighten Vigilance Against the Imperialists' Ideological and Cultural Infiltration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his immortal classic "It Is a Lofty Moral Obligation for Revolutionaries to Treat Revolutionary Elders With Respect," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"We have to heighten our vigilance against the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration and crush it completely."

As pointed out by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, heightening vigilance against the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration and crushing it completely is an important issue at this time.

Blocking the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration is a basic requirement in defending and developing the independent cause of the masses, namely, the socialist cause.

The crumbling of the ideological positions of the former European socialist states, resulting in the collapse of socialism, had something to do with the fact that the betrayers of socialism had neglected workers' ideological education, opening the door to the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration. In particular, the Soviet Union, the former superpower which won the war against the world's fascism in bygone days, was beaten to a pulp by the imperialists' ideological and cultural offensive and collapsed without firing a shot. This eloquently tells how dangerous the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration is.

Historical lessons show that for a country that fails to counter the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration with vigilance and instead opens the door to it, there is no avoiding a repetition of what happened in the former socialist states in Europe, and that to safeguard and achieve the triumphant advance of the socialist cause, the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration must be blocked. This is a warning of our time and a historical truth.

The modern imperialists are trying to realize their aggressive hegemonic ambition by a more crafty means at this juncture, when the times have changed and the cold war is over. In this effort they regard the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture into other countries as an important tool and count on it a great deal.

They are ever intensifying ideological and cultural infiltration by taking advantage of the present circumstances in which the generations have changed in many countries, in particular where leaders have been replaced by their successors. Former U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, an advocate of "peaceful evolution," raved about the possibility that revolutionary countries would be easily brought down if a "peace offensive" was launched when the time came for the new future generation to take over. It is no accident that the arrows of the imperialists' ideological and cultural offensive are currently directed at countries where a generational change is taking place in their leadership, with the young generation marked as a principal target. Gloating over the degeneration and collapse of socialism in many countries, the imperialists are raving about the "magical power" of bourgeois ideology and culture. They are bent upon infiltrating bourgeois ideology and culture into various regions in the world, including those countries maintaining their revolutionary principles and independent stand.

Noteworthy in the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration is their attempt to spread bourgeois ideology throughout the international community by advocating "freedom" of thought and "no national boundaries" to ideology. The imperialists' espousal of "freedom" of thought and "no national boundaries" to ideology is nothing more than a ploy to rationalize the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture.

The imperialists are touting "freedom" of thought. But in reality, is there such thing as freedom of thought in the Western world? It is a lie. The dominant thought in capitalist society is bourgeois ideology. All the diverse trends of contemporary thought rampant in capitalist society are nothing but the different descriptions and expressions of bourgeois ideology.

The imperialists would never permit the dissemination of any revolutionary thought incompatible with bourgeois ideology, and when they see the danger of revolutionary ideology being spread, would repress it ruthlessly. The repression of thought is a peculiar bourgeois political method. "Freedom" of thought as espoused by the imperialists is nothing but the freedom of bourgeois ideology.

The hidden intention of the imperialists in claiming "no national boundaries" to ideology is to enable bourgeois ideology to spread anywhere in the world. Their advocacy of so-called "freedom" of thought and "no national boundaries" to ideology is in essence a ploy to make bourgeois ideology occupy a dominant position in the world's ideological domain and thus suppress all progressive and wholesome thoughts and bring about ideological confusion and ideological and mental degeneration. In this way they can paralyze the revolutionary consciousness and independent spirit of the masses of people, make them mentally handicapped, and thereby reduce them to the status of slaves of bourgeois ideology.

A new move in the imperialists' maneuvers of ideological and cultural infiltration is that while calling for the "globalization" of Western culture, they are trying to force it upon the whole world, raving that the founder of human culture is the West, and that Western culture is the "most advanced culture representing" the whole of human culture and civilization.

Their call for globalization of Western culture is in essence aimed at making bourgeois culture dominate the whole world. The claim that human culture was founded by the West and that Western culture "represents" human culture is preposterous quibbling.

Human culture and civilization are a joint creation of the world's people. The refined, true culture representing the aspirations and wishes of mankind is socialist culture. Bourgeois culture is the most anti-people, reactionary culture in the history of culture. It is not culture in the proper sense of the word.

The efforts of the imperialists and their spokespersons to describe sordid and corrupt bourgeois culture, which is dehumanizing and brutalizing people, as the "model" of world culture are a disgrace to human culture and amount to deceiving and mocking the world's conscience.

The imperialists are trying to lure mankind down the road of capitalism by polluting the world with reactionary bourgeois ideology and culture and corrupting and degenerating mankind ideologically, mentally, and morally. To this end, they are coming up with all kinds of odd theories and views and mobilizing every possible means to step up the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture. They use every possible pressure and sanction against countries refusing to open the door to the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture, heaping all kinds of abuse on them, calling them "dictatorial states," "closed societies," and so forth. In particular, the imperialists are using "assistance" and "cooperation" as trump cards in the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture.

If any country succumbs to the pressures of the imperialists, lacks vigilance against the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture, or fails to wage a struggle against it, it would end up facing irreparable consequences.

The times and history demand that the imperialists' machinations of ideological and cultural infiltration be blocked and frustrated.

Countries and peoples valuing justice and progress and aspiring for a wholesome development of culture and civilization must heighten their vigilance and set up a safety net to block all and sundry bourgeois germs and the virus of yellow journalism from seeping in. They must actively participate in the international movement to break up the imperialists' offensive for ideological and cultural penetration.

It is important in this regard for these countries to categorically oppose imperialists' attempts to force "liberalization" upon them. Submission or accommodation to the imperialists'"liberalization" pressures amounts to opening the door to the infiltration of bourgeois ideology and culture. The road to Western style "liberalization" is precisely the road to ideological and political crumbling and social degeneration and disintegration. This is eloquently proven by the lessons from what transpired in the former socialist countries in Europe.

Another important requirement in blocking the imperialists' ideological and cultural penetration is to keep a wary eye on Western media, publications, and literary and art material. Bourgeois press, publication, and literary and art circles are the instruments and disseminators for the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration. Through these media the imperialists are spreading bourgeois ideology and culture, bourgeois morals, and their decadent and degenerate life ethos and lifestyle. If the bourgeois press and publications and literary and art materials are not vigilantly watched, bourgeois toxins would easily penetrate society and erode it and its people.

In preventing the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration, it is essential to thoroughly ferret out and remove all those who act as scouts and guides for the imperialists in their ideological and cultural infiltration by posing as "teachers," "reporters," "technicians," "diplomats" and so forth. It is a well-known fact that the imperialists are using these agents to disseminate bourgeois ideology and culture.

Intensifying the revolutionary consciousness and independent spirit of the people and constantly developing progressive ideology and culture is an important link in the efforts to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration. When this is done, there will be no room for any bourgeois toxins to gain a foothold inside society.

If all countries and people are determined to defend their independent stand and attitude struggle with heighten vigilance, it will render the imperialists' maneuvers of ideological and cultural infiltration impotent.

DPRK Article Urges Right Attitude Toward Revolutionary Elders

962C0044B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 6 Jan 96 p 2

[Article by Sung Chong-pyo: "The Attitude Toward Revolutionary Elders Boils Down to the Attitude Toward the Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his immortal classic "It Is a Lofty Moral Obligation for Revolutionaries To Treat Revolutionary Elders With Respect," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated that the question of what attitude one takes toward revolutionary elders is a question of one's attitude toward the revolution.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows: "The attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of the attitude toward the revolution. It is an important issue that has a bearing on the fate of the revolution."

Making revolution requires the right attitude toward revolution. The right attitude and stance toward the revolution constitute the ideological and metal foundations for enabling revolutionaries to fight staunchly for the revolution's victory, with an unshakable faith in, and determination to work for, the independent cause of the masses of the people, the socialist cause. It is precisely because of this that people making revolution should always exert great efforts to establish in themselves the correct view of the revolution.

Having a correct attitude and stance toward revolutionary elders is of great importance in establishing the right attitude toward the revolution.

The revolutionary cause of the working class advances victoriously, with the way open for inheriting the revolution. The process of inheriting and fulfilling the socialist cause is the one by which the next-generation revolutionaries, holding the baton passed on to them in the relay race of the revolution, move forward along the path pioneered with blood by revolutionary elders. Because of the inheritability of the revolution, the attitude toward revolutionary elders always becomes an important issue.

Revolutionary elders are the pioneers of the revolution who fought by giving their all for the cause of the masses of the people and the revolutionary cause of the working class, producing great exploits on the way. Their revolutionary accomplishments in themselves constitute precious revolutionary gains and a sure guarantee for the revolution's secure future. Therefore, to be loyal to the revolutionary cause to the end, one should have the right stand and attitude toward revolutionary elders. Ignoring them amounts to ignoring the revolutionary legacies they hand down, and this in turn amounts to negating the inheritability of the revolution. That is why only a revolution with the firmly established correct attitude toward revolutionary elders can drive on without any setbacks.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea that the attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of the attitude toward the revolution is a very valid one. It is based on a scientific analysis of the inherent characteristics and inevitability of the revolutionary cause of the working class.

The attitude toward revolutionary elders becomes a question of the attitude toward the revolution because, above else, it is linked directly to the attitude toward the leader.

Basic to the right view of the revolution is the establishment of a correct posture and stance toward the leader of the revolution. Establishing a correct viewpoint on and stance toward the leader always becomes an important issue related to the fate of the revolution.

The attitude toward revolutionary elders is none other than the attitude toward the leader. This is because the leader is the highest representative of revolutionary elders. The leader is the highest brain and helmsman of the revolution. He is the great teacher and father who presents the scientific revolutionary thought and strategies and tactics, leads the revolutionary struggle to victory by working the masses of people into a self-conscious organized body, and bestows precious sociopolitical lives on the people and leads them along the one road of revolution to add glory to their priceless lives. It is under his leadership that millions of revolutionaries grow and the multitudes launch into revolutionary struggle. Revolutionary elders are none other than the preceding generation of revolutionaries who devoted themselves heart and soul to the struggle for the leader's thought and cause, upholding his goals. In the final analysis, the socialist cause is pioneered and driven forward victoriously by the leader and the revolutionary elders around him. From this it follows that the respectful treatment of revolutionary elders and loyalty to the leader are linked directly to each other. People admiring the leader and showing him their utmost loyalty, treat respectfully the revolutionary elders who gave their lives for the leader. In contrast, renegades who denigrate the leader do not hesitate without exception to resort to the despicable act of defaming revolutionary elders.

The right attitude toward revolutionary elders is, in the final analysis, the revolutionary attitude of defending and adding glory to the revolutionary thought and accomplishments of the leader of the revolution to the end. People with this attitude would, in the same way revolutionary elders did, give their all to the struggle to realize the leader's cause, by upholding his revolutionary thought as their only lifeline, however long and rugged the road to revolution may be.

Another reason the attitude toward revolutionary elders becomes the issue of the attitude toward the revolution is that it also becomes a question of attitude toward revolutionary tradition.

The revolutionary cause of the working class, the socialist cause, advances and is fulfilled through the process of inheriting and developing the revolutionary tradition forged by revolutionary elders. The revolutionary tradition is the priceless ideological and mental treasure that insures the succession of the revolution's bloodline from generation to generation.

As shown by the experience and lessons of the socialist movement, when the revolutionary tradition is ignored, negated, or obliterated, even the working-class party that has been proud of its long history and fighting experience cannot avoid degradation and ruin, making a mess of the revolution in the end. Therefore, the working-class party and the people must value the revolutionary tradition as a priceless asset. They must carry on and develop it without interruption, under any circumstance. In this connection, how to treat revolutionary elders becomes an important issue. Revolutionary elders are the pioneers who founded the revolutionary tradition. The revolutionary tradition is the asset produced by the preceding generation of revolutionaries in the course of their protracted revolutionary struggle under the leader. The late revolutionary fighters' revolutionary thought, revolutionary spirit, precious accomplishments and fighting experience, and revolutionary features: these are the prime ingredients of the revolutionary tradition. For this reason, the attitude toward revolutionary elders, in and of itself, becomes the attitude toward the revolutionary tradition.

Only those with the right attitude toward revolutionary elders can treat the revolutionary tradition—the tradition permeated with their revolutionary thought and valuable accomplishments—properly and carry it brilliantly forward all the way, regarding it as a priceless asset.

Treating revolutionary elders with respect means valuing the revolutionary traditions they founded. People with the right attitude toward revolutionary elders would naturally strive to resolutely protect and defend the revolutionary tradition, regarding these elders' revolutionary thought, accomplishments, and features as priceless assets. With these people there can never be the phenomenon of treating the revolutionary tradition in a nihilistic way, negating or obliterating it.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea that the attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of attitude toward the revolution is justified by the precious experiences and lessons in the international communist movement and in the practice of our revolution.

Each and every one of those staunch revolutionaries who gave their entire lives to the struggle for the independent cause of the masses of people in bygone days had the right stance and posture toward the leader and revolutionary elders. In contrast, the renegades and apostates who gave up the revolution midway and impaired the dignity and honor of the revolutionaries were without exception despicable scum devoid of the right attitude toward the leader and revolutionary elders.

The reason many countries formerly in the process of building socialism abandoned and halted the revolution midway, failing to adhere to the revolutionary principles, was that they lacked the right attitude toward the leader and revolutionary elders. Hence they were unable to resolutely protect and defend the revolutionary cause and brilliantly carry it forward.

The apostates from the revolution and the traitors to socialism negated and defamed the sacred revolutionary struggle and accomplishments made by the leader of the working class and revolutionary elders because they did not have the right stance and posture toward the leader and revolutionary elders. As a result, they ended up denigrating socialism and reinstating capitalism. This was the most despicable counterrevolutionary crime of betraying the revolution under the pressures of the imperialists, a most immoral act of perfidy that trampled upon even rudimentary human morality.

As historical experience shows, when people treat revolutionary elders with disrespect and denigrate and slander them with the wrong attitude toward them and the leader, they are bound to end up relegating themselves to turncoats and betrayers of the revolution.

In our country, the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered in the Paekdu forests is currently advancing along the one straight road of victory without the slightest deviation. One of the basic reasons our revolution has been driving on unflinchingly, even under very difficult and complex circumstances, is that our party and people are brilliantly fulfilling the revolutionary cause. They are proceeding with a firm grip on the leader's thought and accomplishments, regarding them as their lifeline, and with the most correct attitude toward the leader and revolutionary elders. Early on our party and people treated the preceding generation of revolutionaries, who had been brought up under the aegis of the great leader, with respect as revolutionary elders, valued their revolutionary spirit and their achievements in the revolutionary struggle, and vigorously pushed forward the revolution and construction on the basis of the great leader's accomplishments. We are a revolutionary people with an intense loyalty and fidelity to the leader who pioneered the road of revolution, and look up to him with the finest and purest moral integrity—a revolutionary people with a through-and-through revolutionary view of the leader. The lofty stance and posture of our party and people toward the leader of the revolution have manifested themselves all the more intensely since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song left our side for good. It is the unshakable creed and determination of our party and people to hold the great leader in high esteem for millenniums to come, with a still greater sense of awareness and loyalty than they did while he was alive. It is because we have our party and people with their unalterable faith and determination to be loyal to the leader, the highest representative of revolutionary elders, that the task of inheriting his thought and accomplishments is materializing at the highest possible degree as our revolution advances victoriously on the road of its own choice. History and reality convincingly prove that only with the right attitude toward the leader and revolutionary elders is it possible to defend the red flag of revolution in each succeeding generation and brilliantly fulfill the independent cause of the masses of the people, the cause of socialism.

Great indeed is the significance of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's idea that the attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of the attitude toward the revolution.

This is because, above else, that idea has illuminated the clear path to fulfilling the revolutionary cause of the working class, and it has further developed and enriched the chuche views of revolution and ethics. In addition, that idea has helped to bring up people as true revolutionaries with the thoroughgoing communistic view of ethics, thereby serving a telling blow to the despicable counterrevolutionary maneuvers—as well as the moral baseness—by betrayers of the revolution to defame the leader and revolutionary elders and emasculate and stamp out their ideology and accomplishments.

The noble idea that the attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of the attitude toward the revolution is an ingenious one that could be presented by no one else but the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great revolutionary and great man, who has an infinite fidelity to the leader's revolutionary cause, the independent cause of the masses of people, and who has been leading the revolution and construction to victory by the power of this moral fidelity.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, who early on embodied loyalty and fidelity to the great leader at their loftiest height, has been brilliantly inheriting and developing the revolutionary cause of chuche with a boundless loyalty and noble moral fidelity to the leader and the revolutionary cause. Day after day in this endeavor the respected and beloved commander [Comrade Kim Chong-il] showed noble examples of how the revolutionaries should treat the leader and revolutionary elders and push forward the revolution by further developing and reinforcing their ideology and accomplishments.

The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il, on the basis of his rich experience accumulated in the course of leading our party and revolution along the one road of victory for a long period, presented in his latest classic the ingenious idea that the attitude toward revolutionary elders is a question of the attitude toward the revolution. Synthesized in this idea are the noble views of revolution and morals held by the respected and beloved commander, determined to brilliantly inherit the great leader's thought and cause and carry the chuche cause through to consummation.

Indeed, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great revolutionary and outstanding politician who, with an infinitely lofty stance and posture toward the leader of the revolution and revolutionary elders, is leading the revolutionary cause of chuche along the one straight road of victory—the highest incarnation of communistic ethics and moral integrity.

We will, under the red flag of revolution passed on to us by revolutionary elders, inherit and carry on the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the respected and beloved leader, from generation to generation through to the end, by learning from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's noble view of morals, and by brilliantly implementing the thought and theory espoused in his immortal classic.

South Korea

ROK Official: U.S., DPRK To Resume Liaison Office Talks in May

SK2004011096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0045 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 19 (YONHAP) — The United States and North Korea are moving to resume negotiations for exchanging liaison offices in May, a U.S. official said Friday [19 April]. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official involved in Washington-Pyongyang affairs, added, however, that no timetable has yet been set for the talks.

Some earlier reports were speculating that senior-level talks aimed at improving overall U.S.-North Korea relations are being promoted for opening next month.

Kim Kye-gwan, a deputy bureau director-general of the North Korean Foreign Ministry, and Thomas Hubbard, deputy U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, are scheduled to attend the talks, the reports added.

Regarding the reports, however, the official said that Hubbard has been designated as ambassador to the Philippines and is to be replaced by Charles Kartman, deputy chief of mission at the American Embassy in Seoul.

The lineup of the State Department's Korea desk is being reshuffled, the official said, with Counselor Mark Minton in Seoul replacing desk officer David Brown, who, in turn, is assuming the post of deputy mission chief in Seoul.

In a related move, a Pyongyang delegation attending a seminar on economic cooperation on the Korean peninsula opening here next Monday and Tuesday is slated to have informal contact with the U.S. Department of State on or around next Wednesday, according to another American official.

The closed-door seminar will be sponsored by the East Asia Research Institute of the George Washington University.

The six-member North Korean delegation includes Kim Chong-u, vice chairman of the External Economy Commission, and Pak Sok-kun, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's America Bureau, according to the institute.

ROK Dailies View Prospects for Upcoming DPRK-U.S. Missile Talks

SK2004061396

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of articles published in ROK vernacular dailies on 20 April on the prospects for the missile talks between North Korea and the United States that will begin in Berlin on 20 April.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 2 a 700-word article by reporter Chang Yon-chae entitled "The Significance of and Prospects for North Korea-U.S. Missile Talks." The article says the missile talks will be "the first official North Korea-U.S. contact where North Korea's attitude and reaction to the four-way talks proposal can be directly sensed since the proposal was put forward," as well as a "milestone for the future improvement of relations between the two countries." The article expects there to be a "fierce tug-of-war" over the scope of the discussions during the missiles talks. The article says that, despite the ROK-U.S. agreement to include not only missile exports but missile development and deployment and biochemical weapons among the agenda items, North Korea will likely wage a "propaganda offensive" for the peace system issue, expressing its position on the proposed four-way talks from the beginning of the Berlin talks. The article notes the U.S. position is "to assume a flexible attitude toward negotiations on the agenda items, but to deter North Korea's peace system offensive in accordance with the principle of separating the missile talks from the issue of the Korean peninsula," and that the United States "will persuade North Korea to accept the proposal for four-way talks."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 5 a 800-word article by reporter Kim Song-chin entitled "How Will the Berlin Missile Talks Develop?" The article explains that the United States' primary goal in the missile talks is to restrain North Korea's development, production, and exports of missiles under the Missile Technology Control Regime, but stresses "it is unlikely North Korea will meet the U.S. request," noting "North Korea emphasizes its missiles are a self-defensive means to cope with the U.S. Forces." The article anticipates: "North Korea will demand the conclusion of a North Korea-U.S. peace agreement, the lifting of U.S. economic sanctions against North Korea, and the removal of North Korea from the list of terrorist countries as prerequisites for the missile negotiations."

The article continues by saying: "In the belief the missile talks will inevitably be dragged out, North Korea may intend to make the missile talks, which fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. State Department, a regular political channel. At the same time, North Korea is also promoting the imminent goal of establishing a high-level military channel with the United States through the talks on repatriating the remains of U.S. soldiers missing in action [MIA], which are slated for late April." The article notes the ROK Government feels the sides will merely express their respective positions at the Berlin meeting and will prolong the missile talks.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 5 a 1,300-word article by reporter Yi To-un entitled "Prospects for the Four-Way Talks and Pyongyang-Washington Contacts." The article notes: "As the light-water reactor project has reached a technical and working-level phase following the political agreement, it is unlikely North Korea and the United States will discuss improving their relations through the channel of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization." The article states that, accordingly, the missile talks will serve as a "short-term yardstick" for the improvement of North Korea-U.S. relations. Although some ROK Government officials say no issues other than the nonproliferation of missiles and biochemical weapons will be discussed during the Berlin talks, the ROK and the United States "have reportedly held working-level discussions on measures to cope with the possible situation where North Korea raises the peace agreement issue."

The article stresses that holding the second round of negotiations on the MIA issue between North Korea and the United States means "a channel between the North Korean and U.S. military will be maintained." Pointing to the high probability that North Korea will propose holding general-level talks at the forthcoming MIA negotiations, the article expects that "personnel exchanges between North Korean and U.S. diplomatic and military authorities will become active with these channels in the form of talks," and that "the improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations will certainly accelerate." However, the article quotes an unidentified ranking government official as saying: "It is unlikely the two countries will run alone, alienating the ROK and the PRC, the other parties of the four-way talks." The official added: "It is nonsense to expect the United States will abandon the ROK to improve relations with North Korea." The article quotes an ROK official as saying "there will be no practical improvement in North Korea-U.S. relations unless inter-Korean dialogue is resumed," and "the reason the government included the PRC in the four-way talks is to curb the improvement of North Korea-U.S. relations through their own volition."

ROK: Daily Reports on 1st Day of DPRK-U.S. Missile Talks

SK2104043096 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Yong-hui from Berlin]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the morning of 20 April (local time), North Korea and the United States held the first plenary session of the missile talks at an annex of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, expressing their respective basic positions.

After the meeting, which lasted for six and one-half hours, including lunch, chief U.S. delegate Robert Einhorn said "we had a productive start today," but he did not mention what had been discussed.

However, from the beginning the two sides have reportedly expressed considerable dissent with each other over setting the agenda items, such as the scope of negotiations regarding North Korea's development and export of missiles.

The United States noted that North Korea's missile exports pose a serious threat to security in Middle East and Northeast Asia, and expressed its position that North Korea ultimately needs to join the Missile Technology Control Regime.

However, North Korea repeated its current position that it will not allow any other country to meddle in its missile technology because it has been developed "as a self-defensive measure to cope with the U.S. missile threat." The sides have reportedly discussed each party's proposal toward creating peace on the Korean peninsula, such as the conclusion of a peace agreement through direct negotiations between North Korea and the United States as an extension of the arms control issue (raised by North Korea) and the "four-way talks" (raised by the United States).

The meeting was held behind the scenes from the morning until the afternoon. The meeting will resume at the office of the North Korean Interest Mission on 21 April.

ROK: DPRK Delegate at Missile Talks With U.S. Notes 'Good Start'

SK2104152496 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The second-day session of U.S.-North Korea missile talks is underway in the North Korean interests mission in Berlin. Following yesterday's meeting, the two sides today are discussing suspension of the development and export of North Korea's missiles and the issue of economic compensation for this. However, it has been learned that they failed to narrow differences a great deal.

Correspondent Yi Myong-ku reports from Berlin.

[Begin recording] [Yi Myong-ku] The second-day session of U.S.- North Korea missile talks began in the North Korean interests mission. The number of delegates of the U.S. side, which was five yesterday, has increased to 10 today, thus showing at least some progress in their discussions.

Robert Einhorn, senior U.S. delegate, seems to have continually demanded the suspension of Scud missile exports and abandonment of the development of Taepodong missile Nos. 1 and 2 with ranges of more than 4,000 kilometers.

Furthermore, it has been learned that the U.S. side urged North Korea to place its missiles under the Missile Technology Control Regime with a view to making North Korean missiles subject to international surveillance.

To this, the North Korean side insisted that since missiles are self-defensive means, other countries should not interfere in their development and production. Thus, North Korea is demanding considerable economic compensation in return for giving up the exports.

Meanwhile, the delegations of the two sides met each other three times, including at a reception. They declined to mention the details of the talks, but only stressed that the beginning was good.

[North Korean delegate Yi Hyong-chol, in Korean; video shows Yi Hyong-chol speaking] I think we made a good start in the talks. We will continue the talks tomorrow.

[Senior U.S. delegate Einhorn, in English with Korean subtitles at bottom of screen; video shows Einhorn speaking] We made a good start today. We are going to meet again tomorrow.

[Yi Myong-ku] The current talks were the first meeting between the delegations of the United States and North Korea since we proposed four-way talks. Thus, it is highly likely that they touched on the four-way talks in some form.

The United States and North Korea will finalize the first round of missile talks today for the moment. Following this, they will hold a second round of talks. [end recording]

ROK: Radio Reports End of 'Useful' U.S.-DPRK Missile Talks

SK2104224296 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report by correspondent Yi Myong-ku from Berlin, the U.S. and North Korea concluded their first round of missile talks after listening to each other's views.

The United States and North Korea opened the second day of talks at the North Korean Interests Section in Berlin, but concluded the first round of talks without opening the scheduled afternoon session.

The two sides said the discussion was useful, and that they decided to discuss the format and method of future talks through appropriate diplomatic channels.

During the talks, the United States insisted that the North Korean development of missiles, which threatens world peace, be banned, and that those missiles be subject to international surveillance. Meanwhile, North

Korea stressed that its missiles were self-defensive in purpose, not offensive, and that the United States and North Korea must sign a peace agreement and take other measures to build a peace mechanism before the United States seeks to regulate them.

ROK: Daily Ponders Cost of Possible U.S-DPRK Missile Agreement

SK2104103696 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 3

[Editorial: "It Should Not Be a Repeat of the Geneva Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The North Korean-U.S. missile negotiations began in Berlin on 20 April as scheduled. Our attention is drawn to the negotiation all the more keenly because it is an exclusive face-to-face meeting between the two sides without fixed agenda items or a time limit and because it is the first official contact between North Korea and the United States following the proposal for the four-way talks. Although the U.S. State Department has declared that the United States will not discuss the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula in the missile negotiations, the talks on the North Korean missiles must have a bearing on the issue of peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

The United States is deeply committed to the missile negotiations with North Korea because all of Northeast Asia, including Japan, is within range of the recently developed North Korean Scud missiles, which pose a serious threat to the region's security. Moreover, North Korean exports of its missiles to Syria and Iran are an obstacle to peace in the Middle East. However, the Berlin meeting between the two sides has more significance than that. Now that the North Korean nuclear program is under the periphery of U.S. control, the United States has made the control of North Korean conventional weapons, including missiles, the next agenda item in its negotiations with North Korea.

Therefore, the missile negotiations will not be simple talks that end with a couple of meetings. The significance of the negotiations is thus greater than expected, but our attention is drawn more than anything else to the following two points. First, our feeling of alienation that comes from the fact that the missile issue, which is directly connected to the security of the Korean peninsula, is being discussed in exclusive talks between North Korea and the United States. The government should overcome this situation by further strengthening the joint cooperative alliance between the ROK and the United States.

Second — and this worries us more than the first issue — is that North Korea-U.S. Berlin negotiations might impose unreasonable financial burdens on us, as did the North Korea-U.S. Geneva agreement. North Korea — which had turned down the U.S. proposal for the missile talks, describing it as "an issue related to North Korean sovereignty" and berating it with the phrase "We will never tolerate it" — agreed to come to the Berlin talks because North Korea was interested in the reward it would obtain from the United States in return for a ban on missile exports. In other words, North Korea intends to settle the missile negotiations by receiving money, as it did in the nuclear negotiations.

The United States intends to obtain the money for North Korea from such countries as Japan and Israel, the beneficiaries in the missile negotiations. The ROK, under the direct threat of North Korean military power, cannot deny being a beneficiary. However, the possibility of again bearing a financial burden should be eliminated beforehand. The people's complaints about our financial burden for the provision of light-water reactors to North Korea have not subsided. They grumble, "One man sows and another reaps," complaining about the unsatisfactory role the ROK is playing in the reactor deal. The people will never accept a recurrence.

ROK: U.S. Firms To Enter DPRK Market if DPRK Stops Missile Sales

SK2004013796 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An official of the American Embassy in South Korea stated on the 19th that Washington plans to allow US companies to enter the North Korean market if Pyongyang agrees to stop selling missiles to Middle East nations during the bilateral negotiations on missiles slated to begin on the 20th in Berlin, Germany.

The official in charge of the American relations with North Korea also stated that "if North Korea stops exporting Scud missiles to Middle East countries such as Iran and Syria, Washington would allow US businesses to participate in the North Korean market and permit Pyongyang's exports to the United States as a compromise."

ROK: Officials Concerned Over Possible U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK2104002696 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "N. Korea Bid Raises Concern: Seoul Cautious on Prospects for Meeting With U.S."]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After loosening its grip over the improvement of U.S.-North Korea ties, South Korean officials seem to be worried that Washington may be moving forward too fast, diminishing its presumed leading role in building a new peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

They were embarrassed yesterday over a local daily report that the United States and North Korea are pushing to hold high-level political talks next month.

The report said Thomas Hubbard, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, recently sent a reply to North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-kwan accepting Kim's offer that they meet for overall discussions on improvement of U.S.-North Korea ties.

A senior official at the South Korean Foreign Ministry dismissed the report as untrue.

He disclosed that Hubbard and Kim, who led the U.S.-North Korea talks on the reactor provision in Kuala Lumpur last June, have since met with each other once and exchanged letters more than once.

The official, however, emphasized their contacts were solely related to the implementation of a 1994 U.S.-North Korea nuclear accord signed in Geneva.

"Recently they have never met or exchanged letters with regard to the proposed four-party meeting (of the two Koreas, China and the United States)," he said.

He said it is unthinkable that Washington will consult with Pyongyang on the proposed four-way talks in the exclusion of Seoul, indicating a recent pledge by U.S. President Bill Clinton that the United States will not consider separate negotiations with North Korea on peace-related issues.

A government source said, however, he understands the North Korean vice foreign minister made the offer for high-level talks in his letter to Hubbard early last month.

The source said Washington has reserved its response in the face of Seoul's negative attitude.

Many observers here see that there is a high possibility that Washington will hold high-level talks with Pyongyang on overall measures to improve U.S.-North Korea ties.

Washington may feel a high-level meeting with Pyongyang is necessary as a follow-up stage to the U.S.-North Korea talks on North Korea's sale of missiles and the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea, which has raised no objection to the nonpolitical talks between Washington and Pyongyang, are certainly uneasy about the prospects of high-level talks between them.

South Korean officials are especially worried that such high- level talks may turn into a preparatory meeting for the proposed four-way talks. They apparently want Washington to refrain from opening high-level talks with Pyongyang until four-way talks are put on a major track.

But their voice will not be as strong as before because South Korea agreed not to interfere with detailed aspects of U.S.-North Korea ties in return for the U.S. decision not to engage in talks on a peace treaty.

ROK: Urges U.S. Prudence in 'Appeasement Measures' to DPRK

SK2204043096 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 22 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by reporter Chang In-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 21 April that the government has urged the United States to show prudence in deciding on any appeasement measures [yuhwa chochi] toward the North, such as easing economic sanctions or lifting the trade embargo, during a series of DPRK-U.S. contacts to be held after the missile talks.

The government believes that any premature appeasement measures toward the North could impede progress on issues involving the Korean peninsula, including the four-way talks, despite the principle of separating the DPRK-U.S. contacts from the matter of the peace system on the Korean peninsula.

On 21 April, a government official stated: "The ROK and United States had harmonized their positions on the missile talks and on the negotiations over the return of remains, which are expected to resume in New York this week. The United States has pledged that if there is no progress on these issues, it will not take any appeasement measures [yuhwa chochi] toward the North, such as easing economic sanctions."

If a settlement of these issues is set as a precondition for appeasement measures, then this will inevitably lead to considerable delays in concrete measures to ease economic sanctions, such as easing the trade embargo against the North.

In addition to this week's talks between the United States and North Korea on the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers, unofficial contacts between the relevant government officials will be held at a seminar on economic cooperation on the Korean peninsula to be held at George Washington University on 22 April and another seminar on the Korean peninsula on 26 April in Atlanta.

It is very likely that North Korea will urge the United States to take action soon on appeasement measures.

North Korea has maintained that despite the Geneva agreement, the United States has failed to decide on any steps, such as lifting the trade embargo, that would improve relations.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung on U.S.-DPRK Liaison Offices, Kim Chong-il

SK2204063796 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chonju, North Cholla Province, April 22 (YONHAP) — North Korea and the United States will probably establish liaison offices either in September or October, major opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said Monday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, up for reelection this year, will push for the liaison offices in an attempt to earn votes, the head of the National Congress for New Politics said, adding that North Korean de facto leader Kim Chong-il, who will probably assume power before September 9, the day of the communist regime's founding in 1948, will seek to establish such offices as his first diplomatic achievement.

Kim was addressing a gathering of reporters and local civic leaders here.

The 1994 framework agreement signed in Geneva stipulates the mutual establishment of such offices.

With regard to the ongoing North Korean missile talks in Berlin, Kim said that because the cash-strapped North continues to sell missiles to Iraq and Syria, Washington will have to negotiate with Pyongyang to figure out how to compensate it if such sales are stopped.

In light of these circumstances, he said, Seoul's policy toward Pyongyang has not been very successful thus far.

He added that he told President Kim Yong-sam during their private Chongwadae [presidential offices] meeting that he would cooperate with the government's North Korean policy.

ROK: Chon Pressured U.S. Ambassador To Go Along With 1979 Coup

SK2004013996 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1231 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New discoveries about the history of events preceding the Fifth Republic are coming to light with the early release of daily records made by military leaders of the 1979 coup d'etat. The volume is one of only three copies ever made, and was ordered closed by former President Chon Tu-hwan for a period of 20 years.

Included in the discoveries, is an incident related in the May issue of the MONTHLY CHOSON. Two days following the coup d'etat on December 12, 1979, Chon Tu-hwan, then Chief of Joint Investigation Headquarters for the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui, met with U.S. Ambassador Glysteen at his residence. According to the report, Glysteen expressed concern about how the situation would affect the U.S. He is quoted as saying, "This incident may become a precedent, and will damage the discipline of the Armed Forces." To this, Chon countered by pressuring Glysteen with the rumor that the U.S. may have been involved in the assassination. Chon was also quoted as saying, "You should know that this rumor is circulating. I am not able to investigate the suspicious background of the U.S. C.I.A., however, and pressure from America will keep the assassin, Kim Chae-Kyu, from dying."

Glysteen is reported to have countered, "What Korea needs now is stability, political development, and economic stability." Chon is then recorded as backing Glysteen into a corner, saying, "There is a rumor that Glysteen met Kim Chae-kyu just before the assassination on October 26. With rumors such as this, there is a persistent attitude that America was involved." Chon added that in order to clear the U.S. from suspicion, it was necessary to make a thorough investigation of then Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Chong Sung-hwa.

ROK: Daily: U.S.' Korea Policymakers To Be Reshuffled

SK2104110596 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Kim Song-chin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid brisk contacts between North Korea and the United States for the improvement of relations, the U.S. State Department is to carry out a large-scale reshuffle of officials in charge of Korean policy with a view to readjusting its policy channels. This step is to be taken in the wake of North Korea-U.S. high-level contacts, which are expected to take place soon to discuss the issue of improving relations between the two countries. Thus, this is attracting extraordinary attention.

The high-level talks will likely be held between the U.S. deputy assistant secretary for East Asian-Pacific affairs and North Korea's vice foreign minister. This channel is known to be the highest North Korea-U.S. line of contact for implementation of the North Korea-U.S. nuclear agreement.

A diplomatic source has said the U.S. State Department will appoint Charles Kartman, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in the ROK, to deputy assistant secretary for East Asian-Pacific affairs, replacing Thomas Hubbard, the official in charge of policies on the Korean Peninsula in the State Department. Hubbard is to assume the post of U.S. ambassador to the Philippines in June.

Meanwhile, Mark Minton, councillor for political affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, will be appointed chief of the Korean Section in the State Department, replacing David Brown. Dick Christenson, deputy chief of the Korean Section, will be appointed deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in the ROK. Until recently, Deputy Assistant Secretary Hubbard had been discussing issues of improving North Korea-U.S. relations with North Korea's Kim Kye-kwan through personal meetings or the exchange of correspondence. It has been learned that Deputy Chief of Mission Kartman, who will replace Deputy Assistant Secretary Hubbard, will take over this contact channel with North Korea.

ROK: Editorial: U.S., UN Must Participate in Mid-East Peace Plan

SK2004013896 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1228 GMT 19 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Unjustifiable Killings in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Random acts of terrorism and retaliation measures in the Middle East area have escalated to the point where any of the parties concerned can step in and take control of the situation. Among the players: The Arabic group Hizballah, which blithely ignores criticisms against its 'Suicide commando' attacks; and Israel, which continues to justify the shelling of Lebanese refugee camps in which numerous innocent victims were slain saying, "We did not attack civilians." In Cairo, as well, gunmen of Gamah Al Islamiya [spelling as received] opened fire on a group of Greek tourists claiming, "Foreign tourists and investment have helped the current regime."

If left alone, the situation can only give itself over to a virtual land of horrors. The best preventative measures require that both the radical terrorist groups and the Israelis restrain themselves from the vicious cycle of terror and retaliation. In the event that this is impossible, it then becomes necessary to call in an intermediary.

Solutions for this crisis are not merely the responsibility of Israel, Palestine, Egypt, and Lebanon. Rather, the United States and the United Nations, which carry the strongest influence in the Middle East region, must also participate in the process.

Given the vested interests that the U.S. has within the Middle East, it is not feasible to merely stand by and watch the situation unfurl. According to the logic of 'pax Americana' the U.S. must take an active role in this situation. Likewise, the U.N. must stop relying on its self-proclaimed limits of influence and take the principle role that befits it. Rather than maintaining the attitude that we are not obligated to concern ourselves with "fires on the opposite shore," we as Koreans must also engender concern for the activities in the Middle East.

ROK To Adopt Offensive Policy on Trade Issues With U.S.

SK2004054796 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 11 Apr 96 p 9

[Report by Kim Chu-hyok]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ROK has changed its trade policy toward the United States from unilaterally defensive to offensive.

According to the Ministry of Finance and Economy [MFE] on 10 April, at the recent first-quarter ROK-U.S. working-level trade consultation, the ROK Government made a six-point request, including an early withdrawal of the unfair antidumping regulations on Samsung color television sets. This is quite unusual.

The ROK Government objected to the U.S. Government's decision to reject the request by Samsung Electronics to withdraw the dumping charges even though Samsung's sales of television sets met the withdrawal conditions of the annual reevaluation by marking a minimal, less than 0.5-percent, profit for three consecutive years. After the U.S. Trade Committee charged ROK-made color television sets with antidumping regulations in 1984, annual reevaluations have rated the profit of Samsung color televisions as minimal for five consecutive years, from 1986 to 1990.

In addition, the ROK Government pointed out that U.S. food inspection policies vary by the port of customs clearance, and inspection policies lack unified standards. For example, customs documents are required even for products whose serial numbers are the same as the already inspected products. These products are exempt from inspections. The government asserted that this is an abuse of inspection rights and requested a correction of such practices. In 1994 alone, $20-million worth of ROK products were seized by U.S. food inspection authorities, and 516 items were denied final customs clearance.

The ROK Government also pointed out that the U.S. regulations on the place of origin of textile products, which come into effect in July, are too restrictive and not in accordance with the World Trade Organization's [WTO] regulation on country of origin. The government said this limits ROK products' access to the U.S. market and asked for an adjustment.

The MFE maintained that U.S. Government construction bids are more complicated than the international norm and only recognize previous construction records within the United States, thus restricting ROK construction companies from participating in bidding on U.S. public construction projects. In addition, only U.S.-made building materials are allowed to be used in public construction projects. The MFE said this policy favors U.S. companies, and thus requested that the requirements be corrected.

An MFE official said: "The government is considering a multilateral negotiation through the WTO in case these demands, including the withdrawal of dumping charges against Samsung Electronics color televisions, are not met at an early date."

ROK: U.S. Official To Arrive in DPRK To Discuss 4-Party Meeting

SK2004020296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0146 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 20 (YONHAP) — The U.S. Government is going to send a State Department official to Pyongyang to find out what North Korea's attitude is toward the proposed four- way talks on a peace regime of the Korean peninsula, a vernacular daily here reported Saturday.

The State Department's deputy section chief for intelligence and research, is scheduled to enter the socialist country's capital via Beijing Saturday afternoon, YOMIURI said.

The purpose of his visit to the North is to directly convey America's stance on the four-way talks in response to a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman's remarks on Thursday indicating that Pyongyang was studying the "real intention" of the United States, the Japanese daily noted.

The newspaper added that the U.S. official is the same person who visited Pyongyang incognito between Feb. 28-March 5 to consult with North Korean officials about replacing the current Armistice Agreement. The official persuaded the North into easing up on its stance so that it openly talked of the possibility of inviting South Korea as an "observer" to the peace talks.

ROK: Australia Expresses Support for 4-Party Talks

SK1904131896 Seoul YONHAP in English 1126 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — Australia Friday supported as a "valuable initiative" the joint proposal made recently by the South Korean and American presidents for a four-party meeting to discuss permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

"Australia believes the joint proposal is a valuable initiative which represents an important step in efforts to reduce tension on the peninsula," the Australian Embassy in Seoul said in a press release.

It said Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Tim Fischer said it was Australia's sincere hope that through the mechanism envisaged in the proposal, a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula could be negotiated between the parties directly concerned.

"Australia attaches a high priority to improving the security environment on the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of a permanent peace agreement, involving all of the key parties, to replace the current Korean Armistice Agreement," Fischer was quoted as saying.

ROK: Russian Ambassador 'Not Impressed' With Proposal for Talks

SK2104011296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by staff reporter David Cho]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After Georgiy Kunadze, the Russian ambassador to Seoul, heard the news that South Korea and the United States agreed to a proposal for four-way talks with North Korea and China on peace on the Korean Peninsula, he responded with four simple words.

"I am not impressed."

It's not that Amb. Kunadze is indifferent to the events that occurred early last week on Cheju Island. He is simply, for now, folding his arms and posturing a wait-and-see attitude.

"South Korea has been remarkably incapable of bringing North Korea to the negotiating table and I really wonder... if this time will be different," he told THE KOREA HERALD.

Last Tuesday, President Kim Yong-sam and his U.S. counterpart, Bill Clinton, announced a plan to draw North Korea back to the negotiating table with its main rival in the South.

Their proposal, known as the Cheju Declaration, would give the two Koreas the main responsibility in working out a permanent peace treaty to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement which ended the Korean War. North Korea has insisted on negotiations with the United States alone.

Food aid and other economic assistance were discussed as possible incentives to press North Korea into accepting the format of the talks.

China, whose participation is also considered crucial to pressure North Korea, and the United States would ideally play the role of a supporting cast.

Essentially, that leaves Russia out of the picture, even though it has continually pointed out that it has legitimate security concerns on the Korean Peninsula. Russia and North Korea share a border about 30 km long.

But if he felt snubbed by Russia's exclusion, Amb. Kunadze did not admit it. He was not timid, however, in expressing his lack of enthusiasm for the proposal.

"I don't see this proposal as being new or innovative and, in the past, similar proposals failed to bring North Korea to the negotiating table. And I wonder if North Korea can just be starved into the acceptance of this proposal," he said, referring to the economic incentives that were suggested by South Korea.

"For me, at least today, it does not look for real. It looks more like a propaganda exercise."

At the same time, the ambassador advanced Russia's own superior experience and capability in handling North Korean affairs.

"We've been dealing with North Korea for several decades — we know our ways around Pyongyang. And this gives us an additional reason to think we can fare slightly better in dealing with North Korea than newcomers. I'm not going to name those newcomers, but you can guess who they are," he said with a smile.

It is true that Russia and North Korea were at one time close allies. After World War II, Pyongyang heavily depended on Moscow for military and economic aid.

Many of the weapons which North Korea flaunts today were developed by or acquired from the former Soviet Union, including the nuclear reactors which the United States demanded North Korea shut down last year.

But especially after the normalization of ties between Russia and South Korea in 1990 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea shifted much closer to China's sphere of influence.

And, as Russia struggled to recover from a crippled economy at home, its foreign policy grew increasingly practical and free of ideology. It could no longer afford to give handouts to needy Communist allies like North Korea.

Trade dwindled between the two nations and, with it, the political closeness the countries once shared.

Most of the Western world, and certainly the United States, now see China as the main bridge between the reclusive North Korean state and the outside world. A fact that Russia does not deny.

But Amb. Kunadze still insisted that Russia can be an effective contributor to negotiations between North and South Korea, claiming, "While others have been talking, we have been acting."

As evidence, he pointed to a recent trip to North Korea by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Ignatenko in mid-April, which he said served the interests of both Koreas because it helped open the North to the outside.

Because similar visits by top Russian officials have not been made in recent years, some South Korean press reports speculated that the trip signified the resurgence of Communist ideology in Russia's foreign policy. But the ambassador rebutted the idea as nonsense.

If North Korea agrees to the four-way talks, it is still unclear what role Russia will have in the process.

Seoul has strongly stated its aim of taking the major part in negotiations with the North and seems unwilling, at this point, to accept additional parties that could weaken its central role.

But if excluded, Amb. Kunadze said, "Russia still has national and security interests directly related to the Korean Peninsula, and we will be pursuing those interests whatever are the formulas (of the talks)."

From his point of view, without Russia, South Korea will lack the services of a nation experienced in Cold War diplomacy and complicated matters like setting up peace talks with North Korea.

In other words, Seoul, as it has desired, will essentially be on its own.

"In the past, diplomacy could be described as a boxing competition," he said. "But nowadays, I would describe it more like a game of chess. And it remains to be seen whether South Korea will be up to the challenge of a chess game."

He didn't mention it, but the current chess champion of the world is, of course, a Russian.

ROK: Jiang Zemin Letter to Kim Yong-sam Supports 4-Way Talks

SK2104020896 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Ku Song-chae]

[FBIS Translated Text] PRC President Jiang Zemin recently sent a letter to President Kim Yong-sam expressing support for the four-way talks proposed by the ROK and U.S. presidents. A government official said on 20 April that "President Jiang's personal letter was received through diplomatic channels." It came in response to a letter from President Kim asking for the PRC's support for the four-way talks.

President Jiang reportedly emphasized peace and security on the Korean peninsula in his letter. The PRC's position on the four-way talks is significant, as it will undoubtedly influence North Korea as it formulates its own position.

The PRC Government had previously conveyed its position verbally on 15 April, a day before the ROK-U.S. summit, saying: "If North Korea participates in the four-way talks, the PRC will also participate."

According to the official, the PRC has also told Chu Chang-chun, North Korean ambassador to the PRC, that it supports the four-way talks, stressing the PRC position that "North Korea should accede to South-North dialogue."

The PRC Government has also reportedly warned against North Korea's armed displays, telling Ambassador Chu: "The recent armed displays in Panmunjom by North Korea have a negative influence on peace and security on the Korean peninsula."

In this regard, a source said "the delivery of the PRC position is unusual and will serve as a source of restraint on North Korea," adding: "It appears North Korea will unavoidably accede to the four-way talks."

In response to the PRC's demand, the North Korean ambassador reportedly replied "I understand" and "I will report to my government."

ROK: Official Denies Jiang Zemin Letter Supports Four-Way Talks

SK2204063996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP) — A government official denied as untrue Monday a press report that Chinese President Jiang Zemin has expressed his support for the proposed four-way talks on peace on the Korean peninsula in a personal letter recently sent to President Kim Yong-sam.

"I understand that the Jiang's letter in question has nothing directly to do with the proposed quardripartite talks," the official who asked for anonymity said. "It is beyond my comprehension why the press has been made to believe that the letter was about the four-way talks at this sensitive juncture in time when it is not even sure whether or not the four-country negotiations will take place."

"The letter from Jiang, as far as I know, is not addressing the four-way talks but instead the human rights issue in China," said the source.

In addition to the human rights question, the official said, President Jiang made a mere matter-of-principle reference to the Korean issue, saying that China understands the stance of South Korea and will make a constructive contribution toward maintaining peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

ROK: PRC Meeting in Seoul To Discuss Four-Way Talks

SK2204091496 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry announced today that an ROK-PRC Political Planning Consultative Council meeting will be held in Seoul on 24 April. This comes at a time when attention is being focused on whether North Korea will accept the ROK-U.S. proposal for four-way talks.

The ROK Government is expected to explain to the PRC side the four-way talks proposal and request the latter's cooperation. The two sides are also expected to exchange extensive views on matters of mutual concern, such as security and the promotion of economic cooperation between the ROK and the PRC in the Asia-Pacific region.

ROK: Foreign Minister Kong Discusses Proposal for 4-Way Talks

SK2104031296 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 2315 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Talk between ROK Foreign Minister Kong No-myong; An In-hae, senior researcher at the National Reunification Institute; Yo Yong-mu, commentator from YONHAP NEWS AGENCY; and Yi Chang-hui, professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies; moderated by KBS commentator Kim Chin-ki; from the "Policy Diagnosis" program: "New Trend in Northeast Asia: Four-Party Talks on the Korean Peninsula"]

[FBIS Summary] In the 45-minute talk, Foreign Minister Kong No-myong begins by explaining the background of the proposal for the four-party talks, reviewing the history of North-South relations and the suspension of the meetings of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) since the appointment of an ROK general as senior representative to the MAC. Kong asserts that the principle of finding a resolution through the parties concerned is still the basis for the proposal for four-party talks. He comments that North Korea's initial response "strongly indicates the possibility North Korea is considering the proposal in a positive manner," but reserves comment on the government's plan to deal with North Korea's possible revision of the proposal.

Kong states that the government is prepared for various problems that are expected to arise in the course of negotiating with North Korea on this "very practical proposal," but does not provide any details, saying "this is the beginning of a long process to establish a durable peace system." Asked about whether arms reductions and North-South economic cooperation will be discussed at the four-party talks, Kong says the main agenda of the proposal for four-party talks is the peace mechanism, though a broad range of measures to ease tensions can also be discussed. Kong hopes North Korea will respond positively to the proposal.

When researcher An In-hae says the proposal only allows direct talks between the United States and North Korea, Kong notes the United States and North Korea are already engaged in direct talks on missiles and the remains of U.S. soldiers, adding that the ROK and the United States agreed "the development of U.S.-DPRK relations should be in harmony with the development of North-South relations." When commentator Kim Chin-ki asks what the government will do if North Korea insists on direct talks with the United States, Kong says: "The ROK-U.S. alliance regarding this matter is very firm."

When researcher An asks whether the PRC might feel it had lost the initiative to the United States in a matter concerning Northeast Asia, Kong assures him the PRC is in favor of the proposal, stating: "I would like to take this opportunity to tell you we had sufficient consultation with the PRC prior to proposing the four-party talks." Kong continues that Russia was also notified in advance, and does not oppose the proposal. The ROK will seek Russia's understanding through close consultations in the course of realizing the proposal.

In response to Professor Yi's comment that the ROK should adopt a more independent foreign policy, Kong says that, under the situation in which North Korea refuses dialogue with the ROK and insists on direct contacts with the United States, the international alliance is a solid basis for establishing a peace system on the Korean peninsula.

Regarding researcher An's concerns about the current discord in U.S.-PRC relations concerning Taiwan and the nuclear issue, Kong says the proposal for four-party talks would be more significant if the United States and the PRC could jointly achieve a common goal. Commenting on the new U.S.-Japan security system, Kong says the presence of U.S. forces in Asia reduces the arms race in the region. He interprets the new U.S.-Japan defense system as an adjustment of the policy to support the U.S. role and welcomes the new system. Kong adds that the new system does not mean the reinforcement and overseas advancement of Japanese forces, the possibility of the reverse effect of the expansion of Japanese forces is far from a reality, and the Japanese people are aware that the overseas advancement of Japanese forces is not in Japan's national interests.

ROK: Defense Ministry Reports Incursion by DPRK Patrol Boats

OW2004022596 Hong Kong AFP in English
0213 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (AFP) — Two North Korean patrol boats briefly crossed the military demarcation line off the western coast before being driven back to the North by a South Korean fleet, the defense ministry said Saturday.

The incursion occurred some 10 miles west off Yonpyong Island at 11:42 A.M. (02:42 GMT) on Friday when a group of seven North Korean patrol boats were roaming the area, the ministry said.

South Korean navy vessels rushed to block the two boats from further coming down to the South. The North Korean boats headed back to the North after navigating in South Korean waters for some 30 minutes, the ministry said.

ROK: Defense Ministry Reports 2 DPRK Boats Cross Truce Line

SK2004023496 Seoul YONHAP in English
0229 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP) — Two North Korean patrol boats crossed the seaward extension of the truce line southwest of Yonpyong Island in the West Sea [Yellow Sea] Friday and stayed for about 30 minutes before being chased off by the South Korean naval boats, the Defense Ministry said Saturday.

Seven North Korean patrol ships were first sighted at 11:42 AM 0242 GMT] about 3 miles North of the northern limit line, but two of the vessels crossed the truce line extension around 11:50 A.M, the ministry said.

The North Korean vessels returned to the North when two high- speed South Korean navy patrol boats and escort craft immediately intercepted them crossing the border line, according to the ministry.

The ministry said that because the South Korean Navy has been on the look-out for any provocative North Korean movements.

ROK: Russia Reportedly To Give 'Large-Scale' Aid to DPRK

SK2104024896 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Moscow-based correspondent An Song-kyu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has promised to provide large-scale economic aid to North Korea for the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union six years ago.

This assistance will cover eight areas, including the reconstruction of the Kimchaek Steel Complex, the supply of Russian oil, and the development of the Anju coal mines. Russia will also actively consider providing assistance to construct the 100,000-kw Tongpyongyang thermal power plant and explore North Korean oil reserves.

These facts were revealed in a copy of a protocol signed between Russian Vice Premier Vataliy Ignatenkov and North Korean Vice Premier Hong Song-nam, obtained exclusively by CHUNGANG ILBO.

The two vice premiers met at the first meeting of the North Korea-Russia Joint Committee on Economics and Science recently held in Pyongyang.

The protocol consists of a preamble, seven chapters, and 27 clauses. In it, the two sides agreed in principle to cooperate in the following eight areas: commerce, light industry, forestry, joint-ventures, construction, mine development, development of the Najin-Sonbong Special Economic Zone, and the use of North Korea's oil refinery facilities for Russian petroleum.

Russia's promise to provide economic support to North Korea is regarded as an attempt to regain its influence on the Korean peninsula, which was greatly weakened due to the out-and-out pro- Western diplomatic line North Korea adopted following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the establishment of ROK-Russia diplomatic relations.

According to the protocol, Russia will help rebuild the Kimchaek Steel Complex, where operations have been virtually suspended, by providing raw materials and parts; both North Korea and Russia will use the reconstructed facility. The sides also agreed to cooperate in rebuilding the Taedonggang battery plant and the Sonjin iron works.

ROK: KEDO Official Notes DPRK 'More Flexible' During Talks

SK2004022896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, April 19 (YONHAP) — Differences between Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) and North Korea about the contentious issue of the legal status of South Korean technicians to be sent to North Korea have been substantially reduced, a KEDO official here said Friday.

He said that the North Koreans became more flexible at the follow-up KEDO-North Korea meeting that resumed Friday afternoon in the KEDO office to discuss the conclusion of a protocol on the legal status of KEDO and technical personnel to be sent to the North.

"The North Korean delegation showed flexibility by indicating that they could grant privileges and immunity to the purely technical manpower of the Korea Electric Power Corp. [KEPCO], the main contractor of the light-water reactor project, as well as KEDO officials," the source said.

Saying that the North Korean move has eliminated the biggest obstacle facing the New York talks, the official predicted the talks would now progress rapidly toward signing a protocol on the legal status of KEDO and technical personnel.

He said KEDO delegates strongly urged North Korea to give privileges and immunity to KEPCO technical personnel to ensure the smooth progress of the reactor project and in view of the peculiar conditions in North Korea.

"North Korea was fairly responsive to this KEDO demand," he said.

Up until last week, North Korea had refused to grant privileges and immunity to KEPCO personnel, asserting that granting such favors to technical manpower was contrary to international practices.

North Korea instead offered to ensure their personal safety, he said.

KEDO and North Korea, the source said, will resume talks next week to conclude the protocol on legal status.

privileges, immunity and other consular protection for KEDO staff and technical manpower that will be sent to North Korea for the reactor project.

KEDO and North Korea have also been holding separate talks on a communications and transit protocol since April 16.

The hottest issue in this meeting is the question of air transportation, which will be unavoidable when the reactor project gets underway, the source added.

ROK: KEDO Team To Resume Site Survey at Sinpo 25 Apr

SK2204023796 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP) — A 10-member team of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) will visit Sinpo, North Korea, Thursday [25 April] to resume a site survey for the construction of the light-water nuclear reactors [LWR].

The fifth survey team will arrive in Pyongyang via Beijing on April 25 and work in the area from May 7 April 28, a KEDO official said Monday. [sentence as received]

The team is composed primarily of Korea Electric Power Corp. technicians and is scheduled to work on the basic design and plans for infrastructure construction.

The infrastructure projects include an 8-kilometer road from the port of Yanghwa to the light-water nuclear reactor site and temporary lodging quarters for construction engineers.

"We expect that the basic work on an infrastructure will begin as early as June if the current pace of work proceeds," the KEDO official said.

ROK: DPRK To Build Exclusive Residential Area for Workers From South

SK2104043996 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 21 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Kim Yong-ho]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea reportedly plans to build a residential complex exclusively for ROK engineers in Sinpo, the site selected by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization for its light-water reactors.

On 20 April, a diplomatic source said the North Korean authorities, aiming to separate ROK engineers from North Korean residents during the construction of the light-water reactors, plan to build an exclusive residential complex.

The light-water reactors to be built in Sinpo will be the same type as the Ulchin Nos. 3 and 4; thus, KEPCO [Korea Electric Power Corporation] will build the reactors. As a result, quite a few ROK engineers will be posted in Sinpo during their construction.

The source said the residential complex will accommodate about 500 people, and will include minimum entertainment facilities. The complex will be occupied by ROK engineers beginning in 1997 or 1998 up until the middle of the first decade of the 2000's, during which time the light-water reactors will be built.

ROK: Businesses Proceeding With Activities in DPRK as Scheduled

SK1904233996 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 11 Apr 96 p 8

[Report by Pak Se-hun, Kim Yong-su, and Choe Hong-sop]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although tensions have been heightened along the DMZ, the business activities of domestic enterprises in North Korea have pushed ahead as planned.

Pak Won-kil, executive director of the Daewoo Group and head of its Beijing office, visited North Korea on 9 April, staying there four days. It was learned that high-ranking officials of the Jinro Group are also visiting North Korea in a bid to discuss economic cooperation projects.

In particular, processing-on-commission projects by ROK business firms in North Korea have been smoothly carried out as planned, irrespective of the tensions prevailing between North and South Korea.

The Daewoo Group official stated: "Director Pak Won-kil's visit to North Korea was aimed at carrying out a working-level inspection of the Nampo industrial complex, which has been jointly pushed for with North Korea, in the wake of its operation. In addition, seven Daewoo technicians are presently staying in Nampo for guiding processing-on-commission projects in North Korea. They are maintaining communications with us via Beijing." The official added: "The operation of the Nampo industrial complex is expected to begin during the first half of this year."

With approval issued by North Korea in July 1995 for the visit of its employees, Daewoo sent 13 technicians to Nampo; some returned after staying for a month. The other seven technicians have visited North Korea two or three times since they were granted permission in late February to stay in North Korea for one year.

Daewoo produces shirts, blouses, and the like in three or four processing-on-commission plants in the Nampo area, exporting them to Europe and South America under the trademark "Made in the DPRK." Their total annual transactions are worth approximately $10-20 million.

The Daewoo Group's Nampo plant has already been completed and is ready for operation. It plans to hire 1,200 to 1,300 workers after it begins operations.

Pak Yong-su, vice chairman of the Jinro Group, and Yi Chung-won, head of Jinro's Los Angeles office, visited Pyongyang on 6 April. They are currently staying in North Korea. The Jinro Group official revealed they do not deny the possibility of their visit to North Korea via Beijing, and that the Ministry of National Unification [MNU] would confirm their visit.

In 1994, Jinro submitted a request to the MNU to visit North Korea. Jinro is pushing ahead with the construction of a large food processing plant in Oktori, Yonggang County, in Nampo [as published]. Jinro is also planning to build a winery, a glass factory, and a department store in North Korea.

Meanwhile, LG Electronics transported color television production facilities to North Korea early this year, and Samsung Electric Appliances Company exported speaker production facilities to the North. LG Electronics initially planned to import finished items to the ROK during the first half of the year. However, it is experiencing difficulties doing this due to stumbling blocks in North-South relations. As for the LG Trading Company, it is hoping North Korea will expand its processing-on-commission business.

On the other hand, Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Group, submitted a request to the MNU to visit North Korea, but his request was reportedly denied.

A relevant Hyundai official revealed that Chairman Chong, who is greatly interested in the fields of environment and energy, is planning a large project to build pipelines to import into the ROK oil from the PRC and natural gas from Russia via North Korea.

ROK: Chogye Buddhist Priest Touring DPRK, Discussing Aid

SK1904131796 Seoul YONHAP in English 1220 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — A Buddhist priest is on a visit to North Korea to discuss the planned visit by the Chogye order head to North Korea and the adoption of a joint South-North prayer text for use on the Buddha's coming day, May 24.

A Buddhist source said Friday Rev. Sin Poh-ta, chief of General Affairs Department of the Chogye Order, entered North Korea via Beijing on last April 16 at the invitation of the North Korean Buddhist Federation. He will return home next Tuesday.

Rev. Sin, the source said, is also discussing with North Korean Buddhist leaders ways to provide flood relief goods to the North and rebuild the Singyesa Temple on Mt. Kumgang.

The Chogye Order plans to build a hospital in North Korea, which will be promoted in earnest upon Rev. Sin's return, the source said.

Besides, a Buddhist residing in Australia has, in consultation with the Chogye order, shipped undisclosed amounts of medicines and medical equipment to North Korea twice in the recent past, the source added.

ROK: Former Foreign Minister Appointed UN Cyprus Representative

SK2004002196 Seoul YONHAP in English 2344 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP) — United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali appointed Friday former Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu as his special representative for Cyprus, assigning him to provide good offices to settle the ongoing dispute over the Mediterranean island nation.

Han will be an undersecretary general, the highest UN position ever assumed by a South Korean, beginning May 1, said Foreign Ministry Spokesman So Tae-won.

He is replacing Joe Clark, former prime minister of Canada.

In his capacity as special representative for Butrus-Ghali, Han will travel to Cyprus, northern Cyprus, Greece and Turkey to come up with ways to establish a permanent peace mechanism on the disputed island.

The Mediterranean island, currently divided into Greek and Turkish sections, has been embroiled in frequent conflicts.

ROK: Computer Hacker Arrested for Breaking Into Databases

SK1704055196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office yesterday arrested a computer hacker and booked another without physical detention for violating the law governing computer networks.

Chu Yong-ho, 24, is charged with breaking into Seoul National University's computer database and 10 government networks, a including those of Chongwadae [presidential offices] and Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC).

Another hacker, a 16-year-old only identified as Yang, allegedly intruded upon the networks of Kyongsong University in Pusan and Kemyog University in Taegu.

Chu who resides in Sokcho, Kangwon province is known to have obtained passwords of 250 professors and students, but failed to do any more extensive harm than rummaging through their electronic mail, prosecutors said.

However, Chu used a decoder program, the so-called "Trojan Horse," in obtaining their passwords. The Trojan Horse steals a user's password when he or she types it in by pretending it is the wrong password.

The prosecutors also found passwords and Internet ID numbers of high government officials of the MIC, Chongwadae and National Computerization Agency saved on Chu's hard disk. The prosecutors, who have yet to determine the damage Chu could have incurred on the governmental agencies, asked the officials to change their passwords and ID numbers.

The adolescent hacker, who is a winner of computer contests, allegedly obtained 34 passwords from both Kyogsong and Kemyog universities.

ROK: Police Reportedly 'Tracking Down' 50 Suspected Hackers

SK2004011696 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police said yesterday they were tracking down about 50 Korean hackers suspected of having broken into computer networks of foreign agencies.

The probe is under way in cooperation with relevant authorities in the United States, Japan and other countries, said officials at the International Crime Department of the National Police Agency.

Those being traced are among an estimated 300 locals operating as "international hackers," the police said.

In a related move, the police said they booked a 19-year-old auto mechanic in Seoul who allegedly broke into the Japanese Foreign Ministry's computer network.

The mechanic, identified only as Choe, attempted to leave a message in the Japanese ministry's Internet home page concerning the territorial dispute over the Tokto islets, according to the police.

Choe, using Internet, entered the ministry computer system March 1 by way of the computer networks of a certain university in the United States and then the subsystem of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) in Tokyo.

He was quoted as saying that he sought to leave the message that "Tokto is Korean land" but that he gave it up because of "concerns about possible diplomatic frictions."

Choe also infiltrated four other computer systems of Japan, including that of Kyoto University.

In addition, he is suspected of having intruded into computer networks of more than 80 local institutes, including the New Media Institute of Seoul National University.

Earlier this week, two computer hackers including a 16-year-old, were apprehended for allegedly breaking into networks of universities and government organizations, including the presidential office of Chongwadae [presidential offices].

ROK: Delegation To Attend NSG General Assembly in Argentina

SK2004035896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP) — A South Korean delegation will fly to Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday to attend a General Assembly of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a first since the country joined the group last October, a Foreign Ministry official said Saturday.

The NSG is an international regime to control the export of nuclear materials through the adoption of nuclear safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency by member countries.

ROK: Taegu Assemblyman Comments on Charges of Ties to Chon Tu-hwan Case

SK1904024996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — Former Ssangyong Group Chairman Kim Sok-won said Thursday there is no legal problem in realizing or cashing bearer securities where ownership is transferable.

Elected to parliament from a Taegu City District on the ruling New Korea Party ticket in the April 11 general elections, Kim is suspected of having helped former

President Chon Tu-hwan violate the real-name financial transactions regulations to hide his slush fund.

"I already told the prosecutors about what I did when they were investigating the slush fund, and I don't think there was any legal problem because I had had full legal counseling," he told reporters.

When asked about the allegation that he had received a painting from Chon in return for realizing his bearer securities and hiding the cash, the lawmaker-elect said the painting in question was a gift from the oriental painter Kim Ki-chang in 1982 in appreciation for his services to promote the welfare of handicapped people.

Commenting on a news photo showing his election campaigners moving apple boxes which looked the same as those which contained Chon's cash funds, he said, "Everyone wearing red aren't reds, are they? You must have clear evidence."

He said he could not help accepting the former president's request because there was no legal problem.

ROK: Prosecution Confirms Chon Withdrew 4.4 Billion Won From Bank Last Oct

SK2004034396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP) — The prosecution said Saturday it confirmed that former President Chon Tu-hwan withdrew 4.4 billion won (about 5.6 million U.S. dollars) in cash from his bank account last October shortly after the prosecution began investigating former President No Tae-u's slush fund.

It was the only bank account Chon opened in his own name, prosecution officials said.

The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office said Chon turned 1.2 billion won over to prosecutors and still has 3.2 billion won in assets. Chon was quoted by prosecutors as saying, "The money was an earned income. I spent the rest."

A source said that Chon is suspected of having withdrawn and concealed all the money in cash from the bank accounts opened in his name and borrowed names.

Chon was charged last January with accepting 225.9 billion won (288.9 million U.S. dollars) in bribes from 43 businesses while president.

He is also being tried, along with No, for mutiny in connection with his roles in the Dec. 12 military coup in 1979 and the bloody suppression of demonstrators in Kwangju May 18, 1980.

ROK: Entire FTC Staff Submits Resignations Following Bribery Allegations

SK2004012296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] All 288 officials of the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) yesterday tendered their resignations to chairman Kim In-ho following the recent arrest of three senior commission officials on bribery charges.

They said they are ready to resign if they are found implicated in any wrongdoings, including acceptance of kickbacks, gifts or other favors.

It was the first time in the 48-year history of the Republic that the entire staff of a government agency took such a collective action.

In a resolution they adopted after submitting their resignations to Kim In-ho, head of the FTC, officials said that they deeply regret the "recent incidents" of receiving kickbacks from companies in connection with FTC investigations.

Officials vowed to handle business in a professional, transparent and swift manner and reject any outside influence to restore public confidence.

To ensure neutrality of the commission's duties, the FTC personnel said the commission must invite the parties concerned when it makes a ruling on irregular corporate activities.

They also called for recruiting outside experts to promote professionalism in the commission and said that the FTC should always respect all opinions when it makes a ruling, they added.

ROK: Defense Ministry: Navy To Build 4,000-ton Destroyers

SK2204092196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0852 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 22 (YONHAP) — The Defense Ministry is pushing ahead with a plan to build 4,000-ton-class Naval destroyers under its "Korean Destroyer X (KDX)-II" project, a ministry official said Monday.

The construction of the first KDX destroyer, which will cost about 300 billion won (approximately 385 million U.S. dollars), will begin some time this year, so that it can be launched at the beginning of the 21st century, the official said.

The Navy's escort destroyers are currently 1,500-ton large.

Two domestic shipbuilders — Hyundai and Daewoo — will alternately construct projected KDX destroyers by the year 2010, the official said.

The first destroyer is going to be 150 meters long and capable of navigating at speeds of up to 30 knots per hour. It will be equipped with ship-to-air and anti-submarine missiles, and missile- intercepting guns, he said.

Under the "KDX-I" project which has been under way for several years, a 3,000-ton destroyer will be launched in coming August and be formally commissioned in 1998.

ROK: President, Democratic Party Official Discuss Regionalism

SK2004091696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam said Saturday that he will take the lead in resolving regional antagonisms with "positive intentions" in mind.

"The regionalism is a cancerous and nation-ruining phenomena, particularly with the era of reunification approaching," Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun quoted the chief executive as saying.

President Kim made the remarks at a luncheon with co-chairman Kim Won-ki of the minor opposition Democratic Party when he stressed the need to "give special attention to alienated regions when distributing resources and employing officials." The meeting was the last of a series of three one-on-one meetings with opposition party leaders.

The DP leader argued that "regional hegemony" is a more urgent matter than democratization or reforms given the current situation.

When the opposition party leader asked the ruling party to stop trying to lure successful opposition candidates and independent candidates into its fold, President Kim said, "I don't have any idea whether or not lawmakers-elect with political party affiliations are included."

President Kim indicated that alleged election irregularities will be fairly and thoroughly investigated to establish a tradition of clean politics.

The opposition leader stressed the need for a thorough probe of election irregularities, insisting that ruling party candidates spent far more money than what is allowed by election laws.

The president briefed Kim Won-ki on the four-way meeting proposal he and U.S. President Bill Clinton made for establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at their meeting on Cheju Island earlier in the week and the latest developments in North Korea.

The president also explained about his policy for dealing with post-election political issues.

Briefing reporters about the Chongwadae [presidential offices] meeting later, Kim Won-ki said that President Kim seems convinced that North Korea is now facing "a very tense and unpredictable situation."

ROK: Kim Tae-chung May Give Up Day-to-Day Operation of Party

SK2104015496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 96 pp 2, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, who failed to win a parliamentary seat, is thinking of leaving the day- to-day operation of his party to one of his confidants.

The man he reportedly has in mind for the job is Yu Chae-kon, a lawyer and former TV talk show host starting his political career as a freshman lawmaker.

But Kim's scheme may be scuttled in the face of strong opposition from his lieutenants and senior members of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP].

Pak Chi-won, party spokesman, admitted that many party members oppose Kim's idea when he said yesterday, "There are a variety of opinions about whether or not we need a senior vice president and who should take the job."

Last Tuesday, Kim told reporters that he is considering appointing a senior vice president among the 11 party vice presidents, who he said would control party operations in the National Assembly on his behalf.

He also said the senior vice president would conduct protocol as the party's representative in addition to taking over day-to-day operations of the party.

Kim, who is contemplating his fourth bid for the presidency, believes he needs to relieve himself of the job of managing the party in the forefront.

Sharing party management could improve the image of the opposition leader, who has often been accused of keeping the party under his tight, if not total, control.

But Kim's idea of appointing a senior vice president has invited strong opposition from two groups of party members — his lieutenants, who are worried that his status would be eclipsed, and senior party members, who are concerned their power would be reduced.

The proposed appointment of a senior vice president runs the risk of being attacked as nothing more than a trick to improve the party's image to voters if Kim refuses to relegate much of his real authority to the vice president and attempts to manage the party himself by remote control.

A member of Kim's inner circle said the proposed scheme might not improve his image while loosening his grip on party operations.

When Yu was reported to be tapped as senior vice president, other vice presidents began to voice strong opposition.

Some of them said that it could harm the party to appoint a freshman lawmaker as senior vice president because he has not proven his capacity for building a consensus among differing groups of party members and pulling off deals with rival parties.

Yu reportedly agrees with the view and believes the job should be given to a seasoned party vice president.

Other vice presidents suspected Kim is attempting to silence the voice of his potential opponents in the party through his proxy. They say Kim would not have to dirty his hands with blood when somebody else should become his hatchet man.

Some senior party members said no by-laws of the party permit the appointment of a senior vice president.

Instead of appointing a senior vice president, they said, Kim could authorize the floor leader to manage floor operations in the National Assembly.

Kim failed to be elected to the National Assembly when he placed himself way down on the list of the party's candidates for parliamentary seats elected by proportional representation.

Those who opposed the appointment of a senior vice president said Kim should conduct protocol himself as party president.

ROK: Ministry Reveals Measures To Foster Capital Goods Industry

SK1804034396 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beginning July, companies buying Korean-made machines or lease companies procuring them for lease purposes will be able to borrow foreign capital at a low interest rate. The ceiling is set at 2.5 billion dollars. At the moment, loans in foreign currencies are permitted only when companies are buying foreign-made machines.

Also ways are expected to open for construction material manufacturing companies without licenses in the construction business to participate as prime contractors in bids for plant construction projects.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy held a meeting of the 'Committee for Fostering Capital Goods Industry' which was presided over by Minister Pak Chae-yun, and finalized such details aimed for the development of domestically manufactured capital goods (machines and parts, etc).

ROK: Firms To Disband Stock Market Stabilization Fund in May

SK1904062996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0617 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 19 (YONHAP) — The Stock Market Stabilization Fund (SMSF) will be dissolved May 3.

The decision was made at a meeting Friday of four investment company representatives, President Kim Chang-hui of Daewoo Securities Co., President Chang Myong-son of Korea Exchange Bank, President Kim Hun-chol of Samsung Life Insurance Co. and chairman Pak Song-pok of Korea listed companies association.

It was decided that the SMSF will return cash and securities holdings including shares and bonds to investors before it is dissolved.

Investors will be required to deposit the returned shares in the Korea securities depository for two years and will be allowed to withdraw up [to] 10 percent per year over the next five years due to the possible negative influences such a move might have on the stock market.

ROK: Ministry To Provide Direct Cash Payments to Rice Farmers

SK2104012496 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1211 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries announced Saturday [20 April] that it will change the rice harvest purchasing system this fall, to one which provides a subsidy-type direct cash payment to farmers. An official of the Ministry said that the new system is under development to guarantee that rice-paddies will earn real income in the hope that this will encourage farmers to grow rice. Under the new system, there are two main approaches.

These are: the direct payment system, where farmers who continue to grow rice are given cash payments; and the price guarantee system, where the price of rice is maintained above a certain level by adjusting the quantity purchased.

ROK: March Oil Imports Down 33.6 Percent Over 1995 Figure

SK2104015196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea's oil imports in March dropped 33.6 percent from a year ago to 38.4 million barrels, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy reported yesterday.

The March oil imports also represented a 45.4 percent fall from the previous month's figure of 70.3 million barrels, it said.

The monthly oil import bill dropped 32.3 percent from a year earlier and 45.5 percent from the previous month to be valued at $702 million, according to the ministry tally.

Officials attributed the considerable decline in the monthly oil imports to the importers' advancement of their purchases in February before the scheduled rise of tariffs on crude oil to 5 percent, effective March 1.

In the first three months, oil import rose 9.4 percent from the same period of 1995 on a volume basis and 15.6 percent on a value basis to 107.2 million barrels and $3,124 million, respectively.

The ministry estimated the April oil imports to jump 19 percent from a year ago to 57.5 million barrels valued at $1,024 million, up 22 percent.

ROK Posts 1st Quarter Trade Deficit of 3.8 Billion Dollars

SK2104015396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Apr 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Korea posted a first-quarter trade deficit of $3,844 million, said the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Trade [as published] in its announcement of adjusted trade figures yesterday.

The seasonally adjusted deficit is $58 million more than the preliminary figure released earlier this month. Compared to a year ago, the first-quarter deficit is down 14.5 percent.

For the first three months, exports marked $31,833 million versus imports of $35,677 million, said the ministry.

Exports grew 21.5 percent and imports at a slower pace of 16.9 percent compared to the first quarter last year.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Contemplating Surgery for Lame Foot

SK1804015096 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Top opposition leader Kim Tae-chung limps on his right leg. So he walks with a cane, which often distinguishes him in political cartoons.

But cartoonists may have to drop the cane from their drawings in the near future, because the main opposition party leader is considering an operation on his leg to eliminate the limp.

Kim, leader of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), has leaned on his stick since he was injured in what he and his aides call a mysterious car accident in 1971.

While he was on a highway, going to his hometown Kwangju after losing the presidential election to the late President Pak Chong-hui in 1971, a giant truck from the opposite lane rammed into his vehicle.

Hit on the tail, his car rolled down onto a nearby rice paddy. He was operated on but has limped ever since.

The truck's driver was later found to belong to a company run by a government party official. Kim Tae-chung's camp suspects the collision was intentional.

"As you know, he has hobbled in the aftermath of an intentional car collision engineered by the Pak Chong-hui regime," NCNP spokesman Pak Chi-won said.

Even now, more than 20 years after the accident, his lame foot keeps him from engaging in many outdoor activities.

The NCNP leader plans to leave for the United States in June for an operation on his leg after the first session of the 15th National Assembly, which is set to open May 30.

"If his operation is successful, he will part with his walking stick forever," said a close aide to Kim Tae-chung.

Kim considered to leg surgery in February when a Korean-American doctor, after an examination, concluded that it could restore his leg to its normal function.

While he was in exile in the United States in the early 1980s, he had first thought of an operation, but gave up because of a huge bill and the slim prospect for a complete cure.

"Medical technology has improved a lot. Things will be different this time," NCNP spokesman Pak said.

The image of a healthy Kim walking on his own feet could help him tide over the strong wind of the generational change in politics toward next year's presidential race.

Despite the calls for a generational change in the nation's leadership Kim Tae-chung is seriously contemplating a fourth try at the presidency next year.

Kim, 72, said that he will decide on his presidential candidacy by the end of this year.

Burma

Burma: SLORC Releases First Batch of 34 Thai Prisoners

BK2004115196 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Thai Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha arrived in Myanmar [Burma] to pay a goodwill visit in March 1996 at the invitation of Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and prime minister. During the visit, Prime Minister Sr. Gen. Than Shwe informed Thai Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha that, in view of the bilateral friendly relations and to honor Thai King Phumiphon Adunyadet's 50th anniversary to the ascension to the throne, 100 Thai prisoners who are concurrently serving sentences will be released after having their sentences commuted. This was mentioned in the joint communique issued on 18 March 1996.

To implement this, arrangements were made to release a total of 100 elderly, and long-serving Thai prisoners, who are among the Thai prisoners serving their sentences in Myanmar; in addition, the responsible personnel coordinated with Thai authorities for their repatriation. Under the arrangements, the first batch of 34 Thai to be released left Yangon [Rangoon] International Airport for Bangkok, Thailand on a Thai Airways flight at 1030 today. They were taken to the airport by responsible personnel and Thai Embassy staff. Arrangements have also been made to repatriate the second batch of 33 Thai prisoners on 22 April, and the third batch of 33 Thai prisoners on 24 April. Under the SLORC government, a total of 282 Thai prisoners, including the present 100 Thai prisoners, have been released after having their sentences commuted. It is understood that the commuting of the sentences was based on the friendly bilateral relations.

Burma: Action Taken Against 'Friend' of Aung San Suu Kyi

BK2004095796 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the Mayangon Police Station has taken action against a man called Mr. James Lander Nichols [Honorary consul of Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Switzerland in Rangoon, and a friend of Aung San Suu Kyi], who was using an illegal fax machine and communications equipment at his house without a permission from the Directorate of Communications.

Mr. James Lander Nichols resides at No. 65-A, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township. He was a managing director at the United Liner Agency Burma Limited from 1959 to 1962; a representative of a foreign shipping line until 1975; a merchant at the New Fishing Australia Fishing Enterprise until 1987; and the owner of the J.L. Enterprise and the Myanco Company from 1990. He is an Anglo- Burmese, and a son of Mr. George Walter Nichols and Mrs. (Jaysene Leonid Gray).

Acting on information from a responsible member of the public, authorities searched his house on 5 April and found nine telephones, one key telephone system, and two fax machines that were being installed and used without a permission from the Directorate of Communications. The authorities found that he was using one officially permitted fax machine and another unofficial fax machine with another telephone in the house. It has been learned that action will be taken against him in accordance with the existing laws.

Burma: SNLD Urges Than Shwe To Intervene in Constitution Issues

BK2004104896 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 19 Apr 96

[Report by the All Burma Students' Democratic Front in Dawn Gwin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] is repeatedly claiming that so-called National Convention is going well for the future constitution in Burma, there are some dissatisfaction among the participants in the process of drafting constitution. The lack of democratic procedure and structure can be clearly seen during the draft constitution. For example, the administration of districts and townships will be through appointed government servants and no through elected representatives. Having the higher governing bodies composed of elected representatives while the lower ones are composed of appointed government servants indicates a clear lack of consistency. In response to this, U Khun Htun Oo, Chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy [SNLD] submitted a letter asking to refrain from laying down basic principles that will be detrimental to national Solidarity regarding the regional administration in the on-going National Convention.

The following is the full text of letter dated March 25, 1996 signed by U Khun Htun Oo to General Than Shwe.

ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] (DAWN GWIN)

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
Head Quarters Office
RE 036/Ya Ta Da Pha/ Admn/96
25th March 1996

To,
Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
Union of Burma

Subject: To refrain from laying down basic principles that will be detrimental to National Solidarity regarding the regional administration in the on-going National Convention.

(1) It is our understanding that SLORC and the people of Burma are eager to achieve a solid, strong and long-lasting National Constitution. In like manner, SNLD, a political party, wishes strongly for the emergence of a constitution which is just, reliable and acceptable to all nationalities.

In accordance with this strong wish, SNLD has been constructively participating in the National Convention.

(2) The Chairman of the National Convention himself has emphasized:

Drafting a Constitution is a very grave and delicate matter, and we cannot afford to allow even the slightest mistake. If a person errs, it is easy to remedy the error. But if the Constitution is defective and inadequate, there will be great repercussion and adverse effect on the entire nation and the people. We are now at an extremely delicate and grave juncture. To maintain National Solidarity it is necessary for all nationalities to espouse genuine love and mutual respect, to be able to elect real representatives at all levels in their respective regions, to be able to create an atmosphere that allows for the survival and growth of justice, freedom and equality. We will need to put our heads together to discuss the laying down of basic principles for a constitution, a legislative system, and administrative system and a judicial system that embody justice, freedom and equality.

(3) However, the Chairman of the [National Convention Convening] Working Committee in his explanation with regard to the constitution has said that the administration of districts and townships will be through appointed government servants and not through elected representatives. SNLD has already pointed out twice that these administrative posts should be filled by peoples representatives elected through secret ballots. In like manner, several National Convention delegates have voiced the same idea.

(4) In addition, basic principles have been laid down for the composition of the highest organs — the legislative, the executive and the judiciary — with representatives elected by the people. However, having the higher governing bodies composed of elected representatives while the lower ones are composed of appointed government servants indicates a clear lack of consistency. It is also unsystematic. In other words, some democratic links are missing. This contrary to the avowed aim of mulletparty [as received] democracy. Besides, it is in conflict with one of the basic principles that have been laid down: State authority is derived from the citizens and remains with the entire nation. Giving some government servants administrative power while depriving others of it can cause disunity among them. Only elected representatives should be vested with administrative power. Even in the BSPPs [Burma Socialist Programme Party] 1974 constitution, township organs of power were composed of elected representatives directly elected by the people. Only if elected representatives are vested with the administrative power will power lie with the persons responsible to the people.

(5) If administrative power were to be given to the government servants, the role of ethnic nationalities will be overshadowed and this ill have an adverse effect on national solidarity. If national solidarity is impaired, other objectives will also be in danger. This is in conflict with the basic principle of division of power between the Union and the States and Divisions. A botanical garden with only one variety of flowers will not be as beautiful as it should. Only if all ethnic nationalities are permitted to manage their own affairs will the Union garden be pleasant and beautiful, and only then will there be justice.

(6) Only if the regional administration is in the hands of the peoples representatives elected by the respective local people will it be in accordance with the speech of the Chairman of the [National Convention Convening] Commission: To maintain national solidarity, it is necessary for all nationalities to espouse genuine love and mutual respect, to be equal under the law, to be able to elect real representatives at all levels in their respective region. We will need to put our heads together and discuss the laying down of basic principles for a constitution that embodies justice, freedom and equality.

(7) In submitting our above-mentioned views to the Chairman of SLORC, we have not the slightest intention to injure anybody. We have done this out of genuine desire for a just and long-lasting constitution. Since our country is wedged between two most populous nations we understand that it is of paramount importance that there is national unity in the Union of Burma.

(8) Hence, we, the SNLD ardently and in all honesty, request the Chairman of SLORC to issue guidelines not to lay down principles that will pave the way for government servants to be appointed as regional

administrators, but to adopt the ones that allow only representatives elected by the local people to govern their own regions.

signed,

Chairman,
Shan National League for Democracy,
Rangoon. cc. 1. Chairman National Convention, Kyaikkasan Ground, Rangoon.
2. Chairman National Convention Working Committee, Kyaikkasan Ground, Rangoon.
3. Office copy.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Minister on U.S 'Silent Approval' of Israeli Attacks

BK2204070096 Kuala Lumpur SUNDAY STAR in English 21 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sarajevo — Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has called for an immediate stop to the Israeli bomb raids in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

In Kuala Lumpur: Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi described the "silent" approval of the U.S. of the attack as being motivated by Clinton's presidential election campaign.

He was commenting on a report that the Clinton administration had approved the Israeli blitz on Lebanon.

The latest attack had killed more than 100 Lebanese refugees who sought shelter in a United Nation peacekeepers' camp.

Abdullah said the attacks should be stopped immediately and negotiations should be held.

"I find the decision of the UN Security Council falls short of our expectations. We have always hoped it (the council) would ask Israel to adhere to Resolution 425 to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon.

"Instead, Israel decided to launch an attack on the pretext that it is targeted against the Hezbollah (guerrillas), but innocent Lebanese became victims."

Asked whether this would affect plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, Abdullah replied: "At the moment, the situation to date does not make the chances of establishing diplomatic ties (any) better."

Education Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak expressed disgust at the attacks.

"The international community, especially the U.S., must do something and not allow this to happen," he added.

Malaysia: Mahathir Urges Israel To Stop Attacking Lebanon

BK2004140896 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has called on Israel to stop its attacks against Lebanon and to leave the country.

[Begin Mahathir recording, speaking in English] [in progress]... to President Clinton, to Mr. Dole, to al-Hariri, and also to Peres, generally to say that this bombardment must stop because you cannot solve the problem of the Hezbollah through bombardment which usually affects civilians. The Hezbollah has not been affected at all, so obviously you have to do something else and among the things that need to be done of course is that Israel should leave the territory belonging to Lebanon. [end recording]

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia had sent a letter to President Bill Clinton, U.S. Senate leader Bob Dole, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in connection with the Israeli attacks.

Malaysia: Minister Sets Condition for Closer Ties With Israel

BK1904125396 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 19 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur [18 Apr] — Malaysia will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until Tel Aviv resolves its disputes with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and a number of Arab countries, said Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Government may gradually form trade ties with Israel, "but, at the same time, the Government will not sacrifice the interests of Palestine," he said in a written reply to Haji Abdul Hamid Abdul Rahman (BN [Barisan Nasional or National Front] — Sungai Benut) [in parliament].

"Trade relations with Israel is not government-to-government.

"This step is Malaysia's response to Israel's current attitude, which seemed to be striving to fulfill its agreements with Palestine and the Arab countries."

Trade between the private sectors of Malaysia and Israel have been minimal, he added.

He also said over 3,270 Malaysians visited Jerusalem last year.

Malaysia: Minister Condemns Israeli 'Blitz' on Lebanon

BK2004121696 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli blitz on Lebanon has deterred Malaysia from making any move to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the situation today did not improve or create further chances for Malaysia to establish relations with Israel.

Datuk Abdullah was commenting on a newspaper report today that President Bill Clinton had quietly approved the Israeli blitz on Lebanon so as to strengthen Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' position ahead of the election, when the peace policy which Washington backs will be put to voters. Datuk Abdullah said the Israeli attacks on Lebanon was an intrusion which should be condemned as it was [words indistinct] of the military and resulted in the killing of civilians and UN peacekeepers.

Singapore

Singapore: Goh, Australia's Downer Discuss Partnership Deal

BK1904111496 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Susan Sim]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia will support Singapore's candidature for a seat in the United Nations Security Council in 2001, said visiting Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer yesterday.

And illustrative of the close ties between the two countries, Singapore has also pledged support for Australia's bid to join the Security Council next year and the second Asia-Europe summit scheduled for London in 1998, he said.

Mr. Downer, who is visiting Singapore to reaffirm the new Liberal-National government's commitment to the Singapore-Australia partnership deal signed by the Keating government, told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong:

"This is the most natural and easiest of relationships for Australia. It is going to be a very important component of our broader policy of engagement in Asia as Australia's foreign policy priority.

"Bilaterally this is a relationship that just couldn't be better. It is an extremely strong bilateral relationship extending from close economic ties, which we will build on in the years ahead."

There were also very close defence ties between the two countries, he noted, adding: "I believe that defence relationship will simply go from strength to strength."

He said he and Mr. Goh had agreed, during their one-hour meeting, that the joint ministerial committee established under the partnership deal would meet later this year, probably after the ASEAN regional meetings in July, but before the APEC summit in November.

Mr. Goh had also assured him of Singapore's commitment to work with Australia in its efforts to engage the region, he said.

Mr. Downer, who was received by Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar on his arrival at Changi airport at noon, also met him later that day. He described that meeting as "very productive".

"The Foreign Minister and I have been able to consolidate the relationship through our agreement to work together in a range of multilateral fora."

He was "pleased" that Professor Jayakumar had reaffirmed Singapore's support for Australia's desire to participate in the second Asia-Europe forum.

Australia was shut out of the inaugural summit in Bangkok last month because of Malaysia's objections. Mr. Downer had also obtained Indonesian backing for the bid.

Yesterday, he also reiterated his government's commitment to its Asia policy and took the media to task for casting doubts on it in the run-up to Prime Minister John Howard's election victory last month.

"I want to disabuse those people in the Singapore media who think that the new government in Australia is anything less than wholehearted in its commitment to its policy of engagement in Asia.

"Our first foreign policy priority is engagement to Asia."

Mr. Downer was hosted to a dinner by Prof. Jayakumar last night. Today, he will call on Deputy Prime Ministers Lee Hsien Loong and Tony Tan.

Singapore: Australian Foreign Minister Reaffirms New Partnership

BK1904103896 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia wants to have more Singapore troops using its training facilities. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said this will be part of building a multilateral security web in the region and in addition to the Five Power Defense Arrangement and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Mr. Downer notes that Australia and Singapore already have very close defense cooperation and he hopes for greater involvement between the two defense forces in the future.

This morning, Mr. Downer called on Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tony Tan.

During his meetings with Singapore leaders, Mr. Downer reaffirmed the new coalition government's commitment to the Australia-Singapore new partnership.

Singapore: Australia's Downer Views Closer Defense Ties

LD1904125296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, has told Singapore that the existing close defense links between the two countries will get even closer under the new government of Prime Minister John Howard. Speaking in Singapore after talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tony Tan, Mr. Downer said he had reinforced Australia's commitment to defense cooperation with Singapore. The foreign minister said he expected there would be even greater involvement between the Australian and Singaporean defense forces. Singaporean forces already train extensively in Australia and the Singapore air force has a flying school at Pearce air base in Western Australia.

Mr. Downer is on the second day of his visit to Singapore as part of a tour which has already taken him to Indonesia and will next take him to Thailand.

In between his round of talks with Singaporean leaders Mr. Downer visited Changi Prison where his late father, Sir Alexander Downer, spent three and a half years as a prisoner during the Japanese occupation in the Second World War.

Singapore: Australia Offers Expansion of Military Cooperation

BK2004122696 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer says his government will be very happy to expand the level of military cooperation with Singapore and throw open more training facilities, but he added this will depend on Singapore's need for facilities there.

Mr Downer said the Singapore Armed Forces' training facilities in Australia are set to expand as relations grow from strength to strength. He said this, together with the U.S. presence, will add to the collective security framework of the region. Mr. Downer made the comments at the end of his visit to Singapore.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Commentary Urges U.S. To Cut Aid

BK2204032196 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary: "Reporters in Phnom Penh Ask: Why Does the United States Remain Indecisive and Continue To Hold Out Hope for the Communist Vietnamese Puppet Regime?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kent Wiedemann, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs, recently declared that the United States will cut all aid to the two-headed government if the regime deviates from democracy too much. Upon hearing this statement, reporters in Phnom Penh were aghast and asked themselves: Why does the U.S. Administration remain indecisive and continue to hold out hope for the communist Vietnamese puppet regime? Is what Hun Sen and the communist party of Hun Sen and Chea Sim have been doing and destroying for the past few years not enough for the U.S. Administration to decide that the regime is fascist and dictatorial and is killing off rights, freedoms, and democracy? [passage omitted spelling out activities by Hun Sen and Chea Sim to violate constitution and oppress political parties and reporters]

If the West remains indecisive and keeps on brown nosing communist Vietnam, the latter will gnaw further at the West's head. As Dr. Kissinger noted in his memoirs, one has to be decisive with communist Vietnam. Do not nurture any hope. Do not hold talks with the communist Vietnamese. They are very treacherous.

Communist Vietnam has not given up its strategy to annex Laos and Cambodia to form the Indochinese Federation and to become the sole master. In fact, if the West does not pressure communist Vietnam's puppets into sharing local power now in accordance with the elections sponsored by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], do not nurture any hope of seeing democracy in Cambodia; it will be too late. Communist Vietnam will organize local elections in 1997 in accordance with its own system and will take everything. As Hun Sen has declared, he will absolutely not share power with anyone. Subsequently, general elections will be held in 1998. Everything will then be monopolized. What can the Western countries do to these guys then? All the Western forces will have already been destroyed.

In sum, what we want to say is this:

1. Communist Vietnam's puppets are fascist and dictatorial. They are monopolizing everything and killing off democratic rights and freedoms. There is no need to wait and see if this or that happens.

2. If the Western countries want to safeguard their forces in Cambodia, they should not be indecisive and should stop brown nosing communist Vietnam. Time is running out. There is no time to wait.

As stated above, if this is delayed until 1997, communist Vietnam will organize local elections the way it wants. Based on these elections, it will go on to organize general elections and to monopolize everything in 1998. Then international observers will only be able to go along with what has been done.

On this issue, communist Vietnam's weakest point — and the point on which it can be forced to share power appropriately — is money. With their money cut off, communist Vietnam's puppets will immediately wake up. Successive lessons should have taught the U.S. Administration about communist Vietnam's treacherous and tricky nature. When the communist Vietnamese show their teeth to threaten and intimidate, it is not a sign that they are strong; they are in fact panicking and at an impasse. This is the right time to really pin them down. Just try if you do not believe this. It is an unmistakable move.

Cambodia: Sihanouk Interviewed on Pol Pot, Ties to France

LD2204114496 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0620 GMT 22 Apr 96

[Studio interview with Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk by correspondent Marie-Ange Lescure—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lescure] Your Majesty, exactly 32 years ago, you came for an official visit to France. That time, it was at General de Gaulle's invitation; today, you have answered President Chirac's. During these 33 years, your country, Cambodia, has gone through terrible ordeals: war, the Khmer Rouge dictatorship, the Vietnamese domination. Today, five years after the Paris accords, what is the situation in your country, and has it finally found peace?

[Sihanouk] Cambodia has been able to achieve a degree of peace. There are still troublemakers, in particular, the Khmer Rouge, whose army is still efficient, but the number of whose troops is decreasing. So we are living a normal life apart from this small Khmer Rouge problem. The questions of respect for human rights and respect for press freedom remain. I do not say our democracy deserves praise.

[Lescure] When you returned to your country, your Majesty, after years of exile, you appealed for national reconciliation.

[Sihanouk] Yes, yes.

[Lescure] And at the time, you also included the Khmer Rouge. What is your attitude today toward Pol Pot's men and Pol Pot himself?

[Sihanouk] You see, Pol Pot is beyond redemption. He is a major criminal, and he is not giving up his ideas, which consist of liquidating those who are not Khmer Rouge or Pol Pot supporters — he has in mind more a society composed of slaves devoted to the tyrant named Pol Pot, our Ivan the Terrible or our Stalin, if you will. So in the end, the government is right, it was not Sihanouk who was right to want to redeem the Khmer Rouge, to want to associate the Khmer Rouge (?on the margins) with the current Cambodian state. It is the government that is right, because the Khmer Rouge, given that they support Pol Pot, are beyond redemption.

Pol Pot is ill and he is over 60 years old. He is 65. So death may be awaiting him, and he may die in the not-too-distant future; and I imagine the Khmer Rouge movement will disappear along with the disappearance of Pol Pot. It is not a question of assassinating him; but if he dies of illness, of malaria, that would be a good thing. That would be a good thing. I am a Buddhist. I do not wish for anyone's death; but if he died, it would be a very good thing.

[Lescure] Your Majesty, a few weeks ago, you mentioned your health problems, and that led you to speak of your succession. How do you see the future of the monarchy?

[Sihanouk] I am the daddy and I am the hero of national independence. I am the father of national construction. At least 80 percent of Cambodian men and women at the present time, the young generation, support me. But after Sihanouk, will the monarchy not be considered out-of-date, useless? There are more and more people who want nothing to do with the monarchy. They say: Sihanouk is okay, but afterwards, it is better for us to be a republic. Well, I am neutral on this issue. I am very, very royal in the sense that my blood is very royal; but really, you know, if the majority of Cambodians want a republic, so long as it is not dictatorial — neither Pol Potist nor Stalinist — that is okay, that would be all right. A republic where... [changes thought] Look, for example, at this Italian republic. I find it nice. There are

Mafiosi, there are enormously corrupt people, changes of government all year long; people speak of a world-record number of governments, but it is a democracy; and, well, French-style democracy is very good too, as long as it is a Mitterrand or a Chirac who is head of state. There must not be a tendency for people to become dictators, that is the point. People talk of an authoritarian drift in our country: well, authoritarian drifts have to be avoided.

[Lescure] Thirty-two years afterwards, as I said at the start of this interview, you are once again on an official visit to France. The links between your country and France have always remained relatively close. It is true that in your country's darkest hours they were broken off, but they have been forged again, even if sometimes certain aspects of the French presence in your country are disputed. Do you think that these links will grow even closer, or rather tend to disintegrate a little, insofar as Cambodia seems to have chosen regional integration by asking to join ASEAN?

[Sihanouk] I, Sihanouk, have never been a supporter of ASEAN — never. I have always given not only Francophone countries, but also France itself first place in Cambodia. It is true that there is a tendency to prefer English to French, not for any sentimental reason but for a practical reason: it seems that if one speaks English instead of French, one can earn more money, even if one is a rickshaw driver, even if one is a small-scale craftsman — for there seem to be more English-speakers among the tourists, the visitors, than French-speakers. Having said that, French is now on the way up again, so to speak, because, as they say, what is bred in the bone comes out in the flesh. Since France is present, and more and more present in Cambodia, it is a guarantee of independence for my country. Anglo-Saxon influences and ASEAN influences are neutralized. I am not a supporter of joining ASEAN. I have never particularly liked ASEAN. I prefer to be neutral, but, nevertheless, neutral with the support of France.

[Lescure] Your Majesty, to end this interview, I would like to talk to you, if you will allow me, about two aspects of your personality: on the one hand, the filmmaker you are or have been — Are you still just as passionately interested in cinema?

[Sihanouk] Here in France, people say my films are turkeys; but I am not angry with France. No, it has every right to scorn my filmmaking. I am still a Francophile. [passage omitted discussing his love of French cuisine]

Cambodia: Co-Prime Ministers Absent at Assembly Opening

BK2204064096 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Srei Neat]

[FBIS Summary] At the opening of the First National Assembly's 6th session on the morning of 19 April, on behalf of His Majesty the King of Cambodia, Samdech Chea Sim, acting head of state and chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], made an insistent appeal for "contributions from everyone to ensure that national reconciliation, multiparty liberal democracy, and respect for human rights will continue despite obstacles, and that efforts be united to prevent this process from regressing."

Chea Sim added that "although winning the 1998 election is the ultimate goal of every political party, we should not start quarrelling among ourselves now, intimidating and confronting one another, and using violence in place of competing with dignity in accordance with liberal democracy principles."

According to some observers, the two major parties — CPP and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] — are moving away from each other. This will stop only when there are no more conflicts on power sharing and when the current confrontation of military forces loyal to the two parties ends.

"The two samdech co-prime ministers were absent from the National Assembly session, which opened on the morning of 19 April. It is known that Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, FUNCINPEC chairman, was abroad when His Majesty the King left for an official visit to France on 18 April. Loy Simchheang, FUNCINPEC general secretary and first vice chairman of the National Assembly, also left for France on 17 April."

Cambodia: CCP, FUNCINPEC Situation Said Still 'Worrisome'

BK2004130796 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 20 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Vanna]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Observers seem not to be paying much attention to the Cambodian king's departure for a visit to France on the afternoon of 18 April. Nonetheless, what they have observed is that First Prime Minister Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh coincidentally left on the same plane with the king.

The prince krompreah's overseas trip was said to be a two-day visit to Malaysia.

Loy Simchheang, first vice chairman of the National Assembly and secretary general of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], has also been away. He was said to be leaving for a mission in France on 17 April.

A member of the Khmer Republic regime said: Since talks held secretly inside the country during the time of the regime were often divulged, the leaders mostly travelled abroad to discuss important matters. That being the case, analysts envisage that FUNCINPEC leaders will meet "secretly" with the king at this point.

What is apparent is that worry about the unhealthy situation has partially gone away following a meeting between key figures from the two major parties on 9 April. In the wake of the meeting, minutes signed by Say Chhum, representing the CPP, and Loy Simchheang, representing FUNCINPEC, were issued. The minutes contain the following three-point fundamental stance, which says:

1. We will further maintain, expand, and enhance the alliance between the two parties.

2. We will continue our normal work on issues with which we have no problems and we will strive to find ways to jointly solve, through goodwill, patience, and peaceful means, those issues with which we still have problems.

3. In any case, we have resolved that we will avoid confrontation on the basis of mutual understanding.

All in all, watchers believe that the problem is still "worrisome"; it has just cooled down a bit.

Persons on hand to see the king off at Pochentong Airport were noted adopting an unusual pattern, that is, those from the CPP stood away from those from FUNCINPEC. [passage omitted]

It is unknown whether or not the king will take the opportunity to grant an audience to Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, who is currently living in exile in France.

Cambodia: Refurbished Stenka Warships Return From Malaysia

BK2204065596 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Peyatro]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two warships, which had been towed to Malaysia for repairs and to be fitted with many attack weapons over a year ago, have returned to Sihanoukville.

Rear Admiral Thach Sang told REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA that the two ships have returned to Cambodian waters since 10 April after being sent for refurbishment and to be fitted with equipment of modern warships for the protection of Cambodia's maritime borders.

It is to be noted that the two "Stenkas" ships had been given to the government of the former "State of Cambodia" by the former Soviet Union in the 1980's. They were for the protection of Cambodia against violations by neighboring countries and for crime prevention in Cambodian waters.

Ek Sereivoat, state secretary for defense, also told reporters that four Malaysian warships also arrived in Sihanoukville on 18 April to take part in a rehearsal to be held with the Cambodian navy for the transfer of the "Stenkas" ships in Sihanoukville.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Disrupts Railway Line in Pursat, Battambang

BK2204064696 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 21 Apr 96 p 5

[Report by N. Sranaoh]

[FBIS Summary] According to a railway official, 96 meters of rail tracks at five places between Kdol and Totoeng Thngai stations, on the border of Kompong Chhnang and Pursat Provinces, were damaged by Khmer Rouge landmines at 2200 on 16 April.

"Pich Kimsreang, chief of the Railway Department, said the railway line between Moung and Battambang have remained quiet after Khmer Rouge attempts to destroy bridges and tracks, and disrupt repairs since December 1994. The situation remains tense."

This official added that since January 1996, the rebels have carried out 32 sabotage operations using landmines at 185 places, damaging 1,169 meters of railtracks, six bridges, and one culvert. Repairs, which were supposed to be completed in January 1996, have been postponed due to enemy activities.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Vows To Continue Struggle Against Government

BK2204064196 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary: "Communist Vietnam and Lackeys Hun Sen and Chea Sim Clearly Show That

They Still Need the Two-headed Government; If They Stand Out with Only One Head, They Will Certainly Die"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communist Vietnam recently told Chea Sim to appeal to the two-headed government to unite and to continue to stay together. This statement admits that Hun Sen and Chea Sim are facing opposition from all directions. It also reveals the weakness of communist Vietnam and its puppets. These guys are afraid of being completely isolated. Now they are isolated under the two-head label. But when only one head is left, no one will take part in the election or stay with them. Then, they will face certain death. This is the weakness of Hun Sen and Chea Sim and their communist Vietnam master. This is why they are pleading for the continued existence of the two-headed government.

So, how should politicians play the game? There is no need to talk about mad rabbit players such as Ranariddh, Yu Hokkri, Ing Huot, and Ieng Muli. We are talking only about real politicians, reporters, and other political personalities. How should they react? Should the Western label be put on communist Vietnam, Hun Sen and Chea Sim, while the West allows them to continue killing for another five years? Or should the Western label be removed from Hun Sen and Chea Sim, lackeys of communist Vietnam? Will people dare do this or not?

If they dare, they will survive. If they dare not, they will die and so will the West, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, newspapers, and even the Cambodian nation and people. This is up to politicians to decide and this will show whether they are old hands or new ones. The Cambodian nation and people are already well aware of this and they have been fighting for 17 years. Regardless of the issue of the labels used by politicians — whether the Western label should continue to be put on Hun Sen, communist Vietnam's lackey — the Cambodian nation and people will continue to struggle because if they do not, the Cambodian nation, race, and they themselves, will perish.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Australia's Downer Views Approach Toward Indonesia

BK1704123896 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0630 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "International Report" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, has spent the past two days in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, spelling out the approach the new Australian Government intends to adopt towards Australia's nearest Asian neighbor. Mr. Downer has said that above all, the Howard administration will deal with Indonesia in a realistic and practical way rather than being, as he puts it, airy fairy idealists. Before ending his Jakarta visit, Mr. Downer spoke to Michael Maher about his first trip as foreign minister to the Indonesian capital.

[Begin recording] [Downer] I have been able to establish unequivocally that the new government is committed to engagement with Asia as its first foreign policy priority and I think that point has been warmly received by both Foreign Minister Alatas and President Suharto. And, secondly, I have been able to make it clear to the Indonesian Government that our relationship with Indonesia is of very great importance to the new government and we want to build on what has been done in the past, not start the relationship all over again.

[Maher] There was a lot of toing and froing during the recent election campaign about whether or not the coalition government would be as committed to Asia as was the Keating government. Are you satisfied that you will now be able to maintain the momentum in this relationship that was established under the Keating administration?

[Downer] Well, absolutely. I don't think there is any doubt about that, and I think it is quite clear from what the Indonesians themselves have said, the amount of trouble they have gone to welcome me to Jakarta — I will have seen something like seven ministers here as well as the foreign minister and the president by the time I leave — and I think that some of the rhetoric that came from the other side of politics before the last election, which I explained at that time should not be believed, is simply something we can discard into the dustbin of history.

[Maher] Where do you want to take this relationship? After all you did argue very strongly that the Indonesia-Australia relationship reached a peak late last year when the security agreement was signed. Where can it go from here? What are your priorities going to be?

[Downer] No, I don't think it reached a peak. I think the signing of the security agreement was certainly perhaps a logical development of the closer cooperation there had been in the security field, and that is certainly how the Indonesians have seen it. What we want to do is build on those sorts of achievements. We do want to develop the security relationship and I don't just mean in terms of defense cooperation but I mean in terms of a dialogue about regional security issues. I think we need to be pretty open and frank with each other about our perceptions of regional problems and the direction of the region in security terms and I think that agreement gives us, if you like, a foundation, sort of. I think the economic relationship has a very long way to go. Indonesia is now our twelfth largest trading partner. I think it will rise in our batting order, if I could put it that way, in the years ahead given the size of Indonesia in population terms and its 7 to 8 percent economic growth forecast. I think Australian investment is likely to grow in Indonesia and perhaps in time Indonesian investment in Australia will grow. So I don't just see the security relationship developing, I see the economic relationship growing too.

[Maher] On the vexed issue of East Timor, in opposition you criticized the Keating government for shying away on occasions from raising the issue of East Timor with the Indonesian Government. In your meetings here, however, you have made it very plain that the East Timor issue won't overwhelm the bilateral relationship. In government, have you had to adopt a more pragmatic approach?

[Downer] No. In government I have done just what I thought the previous government should have done and that is take a consistent up front frank approach, recognizing that it is a problem and that Australians are concerned about it. I mean it is not just the East Timor activists in Australia who are concerned about it; I think the mainstream of the Australian community is concerned but what you have got to understand is that the Indonesians are concerned about it as well. They see it as an issue which is damaging their reputation internationally and they want to work towards an appropriate solution there. So I actually happen to think and I have always thought that if you sit down with them, you are open about it, and you are frank about it being a problem — because it is definitely a problem — don't try and sweep it under the carpet, talk it through and be constructive in your dealings with them, you are likely to get a much better result on that issue in the longer term than you will, just you know, demonstrating and throwing paint at the Indonesian Embassy and putting up press releases saying you don't like Indonesia. I mean I just don't think that is the way to go. [end recording]

Indonesia: Navy Detains Six Philippine Trawlers

BK2204093996 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an operation near Gebe island in northern Maluku, the KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Teluk Jakarta warship successfully detained six Philippine trawlers with 65 crew members. The six trawlers were detained when fishing illegally in the area.

Speaking in Sorong, Lieutenant Colonel (A. Priyanto), commander of the Sorong Navy Regional Command, said one of the trawlers tried to escape, but it surrendered after warning shots were fired. The six trawlers have been brought to Sorong and are now berthed at the local pier while their crew members are questioned by local authorities.

Indonesia: Timorese Resistance Leader Santana Interviewed

LD2104100496 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1105 GMT 20 Apr 96

[From the "Cards on the Table" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today we are broadcasting an interview with Konis Santana, the commander of the resistance fighters on the mountains of Timor. It was recorded on the 9 February, but has only just reached Portugal.

Konis Santana speaks of the everyday life of his men, praises the role of Bishop of Dili Dom Ximenes Belo and of the Catholic Church, urges the international community never to allow the struggle of the Timorese to die, and reveals what he will tell Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas if he met him face to face.

The interview was recorded by journalist Jose Luis Ramos Pinheiro.

[Begin recording] [Pinheiro] Radio Renascenca, Konis Santana interview, 9 February 1996. What is life like in the bush? How do you feed yourselves, how do you manage to survive, what are your main difficulties?

[Santana] [passage omitted] As everyone knows the life of a guerrilla on the mountains of East Timor is full of hardships. To be a guerrilla in East Timor is to accept every privation. Life in the bush is extremely hard. Survival is a permanent uncertainty, death an ever-present certainty. We happily accept the many hardships that come our way. [passage omitted]

Here in the bush we have acquired a profound notion of the meaning of duty. Our life is organized and disciplined. We are not a gang of desperados, derelicts or [word indistinct] as the Indonesians try to depict us.

[Pinheiro] It is said that the operations launched by Indonesia are making things increasingly difficult for your men. Is that true?

[Santana] We are at a particularly difficult and critical stage of our armed resistance. The Indonesian Army is exerting growing pressure on the guerrillas, seeking to make their survival more and more difficult.

And why is this? Despite the fact that the guerrilla is becoming increasingly depleted and unable to exert such pressure on Jakarta as will lead it to change its stance, the Indonesian generals are now recognizing, and increasingly so, the importance, the determining role of the Falintil [Fretilin's armed wing] in keeping alive at every level the resistance in our homeland.

There is a price on the head of every guerrilla leader and fighter, varying from the equivalent of 1,500 to 2,000 contos depending on rank. [passage omitted]

Since October of last year the enemy has intensified military activity against the guerrilla, deploying between 25 and 30 battalions of the Indonesian regular army, besides the special forces recently trained in antisubversive warfare under the command of the ambitious and murderous Colonel (Parabo), Suharto's son-in- law.

[Pinheiro] How do you get your weapons? Do you have support from abroad or do you make do with the weapons captured from the Indonesians?

[Santana] Everyone knows that for the past 20 years we have been resisting the Indonesian army's invasion and occupation of our homeland solely with Portuguese weapons, and with those seized from the Indonesians on the battlefield.

We also use other means to wound or kill the enemy, such as sticks, stones, bows and arrows, assegai's, pangas, and so on.

We are unable to receive any kind of military support from the outside world. We have always sought it, but the blockade imposed by the enemy prevents it. [passage omitted]

We have plenty of human resources, lots of youths ready to take to the hills, but we lack the weapons to arm them. We believe that Jakarta's inflexible stance results from our great military weakness. [passage omitted]

[Pinheiro] Many young people are fleeing abroad. What is your advice to them? Would you rather have them fighting in the bush by your side?

[Santana] [passage omitted] Dear young people, my dear brothers and sisters who have left our homeland. I want to ask you not to abandon our struggle. Keep alive the flame of our resistance wherever you may be. Remain firm in the struggle, united in solidarity. Above all, retain your discipline, fully and unconditionally obeying the directives from our diplomatic officials and from the military command inside the homeland.

Dear brothers and sisters. I dearly wish you had remained in our homeland to continue the struggle with the means available to you so that we might liberate our country. But you have left your combat posts in the homeland. Your deserted posts remain empty and are as many breaches in the wall through which the Indonesian attackers will try to get through.

[Pinheiro] What is the state of the Portuguese language in the territory?

[Santana] It is no longer taught, it has been banned. The last remaining school was closed down years ago. Only the clergy still speak Portuguese and use it in the liturgy. Young people do not know the language at all. [passage omitted]

[Pinheiro] Would you accept integration in Indonesia if you retained political, economic, and cultural autonomy for the Timorese?

[Santana] We will respect the will of our people whatever their choice in a free and democratic referendum supervised by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[[Pinheiro] If you met Ali Alatas face to face what would you like to tell him?

[Santana] To Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas I would say that if his country wants to play the role to which it aspires regionally and worldwide, if Indonesia wishes to project the image of a moderate country, open to dialogue, geared for progress and development, and willing to play an influential role in the resolution of regional and international conflicts, then its first decisive step must be to put its own house in order and resolve the problem of East Timor once and for all.

This problem remained long ignored by the world, but is now receiving more support and sympathy from the international community with every passing day.

When it decides to settle this matter, Indonesia will truly be a veritable regional giant. Otherwise Indonesia will remain lame, because the Maubere [East Timorese] stone in its shoe will become sharper and sharper as time goes by.

The Palestinian question provides an enlightening example. And President Suharto of Indonesia should draw inspiration from the huge political courage shown by the late Prime Minister Rabin.

With his profound knowledge of international issues, Mr. Ali Alatas should adopt a more realistic approach to the East Timor question. External and internal factors point toward the possibility of a solution to the problem of East Timor. It is high time Ali Alatas recognized this. Twenty years have passed, plenty of time for Indonesia to have pondered matters and now adopt a clear stance. It will be a belated move, but it is better late than never.

[Pinheiro] Concerning Xanana Gusmao. Are you of the view that he should accept going into exile before completing his full prison sentence to carry on from abroad the struggle for the Timorese cause, or do you think he should serve the full term of the sentence?

[Santana] Regarding a possible banishment, we see nothing to reassure us that our topmost leader might be sent into exile without preconditions. Moreover, Indonesia will have much to gain from such a move. Besides, our topmost leader does not accept being sent into exile, and we fully support him.

It makes no sense sending him into exile when those who served under him remain detained and mistreated. And my topmost leader has always actually sought a lengthening of his sentence in exchange for the release of all political prisoners. [passage omitted, repetitive] We recognize that his exile will have many positive aspects, but you can also fight from Cipinang jail, and my topmost leader is wisely leading our struggle from behind the bars of his cell.

[Pinheiro] The invasion was over 20 years ago. What were Portugal's responsibilities in that event?

[Santana] While recognizing the seriousness of the crisis faced at the time, with the fragile [Portuguese] democracy born of 25 April 1974 under threat, which led Portugal to focus its attention on domestic issues and decolonization in Africa, I must state that Portugal bears grave responsibilities for leaving uncompleted the decolonization of East Timor. [passage omitted]

The central government showed a total lack of interest in East Timor, in contrast with the government of the territory's keenness to create the basic conditions for the gradual decolonization of East Timor. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Indonesian 'Source': Irian Jaya Hostages 'Rather Emaciated'

BK2204084496 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 21 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Wamena, 21 Apr — Today marks the 105th day of the Lorentz research team's abduction by Irian Jaya GPK [security disturbance movement] leaders Kelly Kwalik and Daniel Yudas Kogoya. Acting as a mediator, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has exerted continued efforts to obtain the release of the hostages while the ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] continues its persuasive approach to do the same.

This shows the goodwill of the government and the ABRI in their efforts to solve the problem, said a source in Wamena on 20 April. The source said the 11 hostages are doing well but look rather emaciated. Mrs. Martha Klein, who is six months pregnant, appears to have several problems with nutrition and nomadic lifestyle. Along with the other hostages, she must walk for hours every day. "We hope Martha Klein will be released after the next round of talks," the source said, adding that ICRC officials managed to see the hostages at Gesalama village, Tiom Subdistrict two days earlier. Besides examining the hostages, the ICRC team also provided medical treatment to local villagers. The team travels by helicopter from Wamena Airport every day, but it is not known whether they are allowed to meet with the hostages every day.

Indonesia: Officer Denies Military Rivalry Behind Shooting

BK1904105896 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Medan (KOMPAS) — Lieutenant General Suyono, chief of the ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia] General Staff, has dismissed foreign press reports that the shooting incident at Timika Airport was caused by a rivalry between ABRI units; namely, between the Red Berets [Special Forces] and Green Berets [Army Strategic Reserve Command].

"The foreign press reports are absolutely wrong and aimed at causing a rift within the ABRI. The shooting in Timika on the early morning of 15 April was done by one person only and the victims were both Red Berets and Green Berets," Suyono said to reporters during an official working visit to the Bukit Barisan First Regional Military Command headquarters in Medan on 18 April.

Speaking in the presence of Brigadier Gen. Rizal Nurdin, chief of staff of the Bukit Barisan Military Command, Suyono said the foreign press not only cited rivalry between ABRI units, but also ABRI's alleged involvement in some rapes, ABRI's attempts to cover up the shooting incident, ABRI's failure to inform the victims' families, and the fact that the victims were buried in Timika.

"On the victims' burial in Irian Jaya, I can say this is normal military procedure. If a soldier dies in his area of operation, he is buried there. This is a universal military tradition. If family members want to move the remains two years later, for instance, it is up to them. It can be done," Suyono said.

Suyono explained that the victims' families were not informed and could not see the remains because ABRI did not want to increase their sorrow. The family members understood and accepted this fact.

"I am deeply saddened by the shooting. I do not want the victims' families to suffer more. ABRI deeply regrets this incident, the first such incident in its history, and also the fact that a foreigner was one of the victims," Suyono said. [passage omitted]

The latest information received by KOMPAS is that four more people have died as a result of the incident, bringing the total number of casualties to 19. The four died after receiving treatment at the hospital. The names of the four are unavailable, but they include civilians. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the 11 hostages still held inside a bat-filled cave in Mapnduma, Major Gen. Dunija, commander of the Trikora Eighth Regional Military Command, said ABRI is still monitoring the abductors' activities. ABRI will continue its persuasive approach to free the hostages. The commander declined to say how long the persuasive approach will last. "Do not ask us how long we will continue this policy," he said. In this connection, the commander admitted that ABRI still needs the International Red Cross to mediate its talks with the Irian Jaya GPK [security disturbance movement]. [passage omitted]

Profiles of New Indonesian Military Commanders

96SE0052A Jakarta GATRA in Indonesian 23 Mar 96 pp 32, 33

[FBIS Translated Text]

Lt. Gen. Wiranto, Strategic Reserves Lieutenant General Wiranto, 49, looked happy on Friday of last week [15 March] as he accepted congratulations from his colleagues after reporting his promotion to ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] Commander General Faisal Tanjung in the Soedirman Auditorium at ABRI Headquarters on Medan Merdeka Barat Street, Jakarta. Present besides Wiranto were KSAL [Chief of Navy Staff] Vice Admiral Arief Kusharyadi, KSAU [Chief of Air Force Staff] Lieutenant General Sutria Tubagus, and KAPOLRI [Chief of Indonesian Police] Lieutenant General Dibyo Widodo, who earlier that morning were installed by President Suharto at the State Palace.

The one who attracted attention was Wiranto, PANGDAM JAYA [Commander of Metropolitan Jakarta Military Area Command], who was immediately installed as PANGKOSTRAD (Commander of Army Strategic Reserve Command). He replaces Lieutenant General Tarub, who also was promoted by one grade this week. Wiranto was immediately replaced by KASDAM JAYA [Chief of Staff of Metropolitan Jakarta Area Military Command] Major General Sutiyoso, who also was just promoted. He is in the same generation as Wiranto, and both graduated from the AMN [National Military Academy] in 1968. Tarub, a 1965 AMN graduate, reportedly will be assigned as Indonesian ambassador to Papua New Guinea.

The promotion of Wiranto to the PANGKOSTRAD position with the rank of lieutenant general is reminiscent of previous PANGKOSTRAD incumbents of that rank, such as Lieutenant General Rudini (1981-1983) and Lieutenant General Soeweno (1983-1986). Rudini then jumped from PANGKOSTRAD to KSAD, much like the case of General Suharto, the first PANGKOSTRAD, who became MENPANGAD (Minister and Army Commander) in 1966 and is now the president of Indonesia. Recently, the PANGKOSTRAD has had the rank of only major general.

The PANGKOSTRAD and PANGDAM JAYA changes were hinted earlier by ABRI KASUM [Chief of General Staff] Lieutenant General Soeyono, when to reporters he denied the accusation that there is an inflation in the ranks. The emergence of Wiranto as PANGKOSTRAD is, therefore, not surprising. What raises questions among some people is his promotion to lieutenant general for the new position. The assessment of some is that Wiranto's promotion will smooth the way for President Suharto's former adjutant to become KSAD, as was the case with Rudini and Pak Harto [President Suharto].

It can be noted that Wiranto was promoted along with the three chiefs of staff of the services and police. Arief Kusharyadi became KSAL, replacing Admiral Tanto Koeswanto. Sutria Tubagus became KSAU, replacing General Rilo Pambudi, and Dibyo Widodo became KAPOLRI in the place of General Banurusman. Arief and Sutria were 1967 graduates, while Dibyo and Wiranto graduated in 1968.

With a composition such as that, Wiranto's assignment has been the topic of much discussion, especially seeing that General R. Hartono was retained as KSAD. That is not merely a placement of the practicing Muslim and native of Madura as the most senior chief of staff, but it is also surmised that it is an opportunity for Hartono, who has been KSAD for only a year, to move higher. If that happens, it seems that Wiranto will be the one to replace him. The stars on Wiranto's shoulders would then be incremented to a four-star general. That, however, is merely speculation of people based on what has taken place. Of course, ultimately everything will be up to the ABRI leadership. The question of why Wiranto became a three-star general was answered by the ABRI commander. "Everywhere in this world, units with more than two divisions, such as KOSTRAD, are led by three-star generals," Gen. Faisal Tanjung said.

Major General Suharto (now Indonesian president) was the first to be entrusted with the position of PANGKOSTRAD. KOSTRAD itself came into being when Indonesia was dealing with the liberation of West Irian. At first, in 1960, its name was Army General Reserve Corps. It was changed to KOSTRAD in 1963. Its basic task is to supervise operational readiness among all commands and conduct defense and security operations at the strategic level in accordance with policies of the ABRI commander. When Maj. Gen. Suharto was PANGKOSTRAD, he was accorded full confidence as commander of the Mandala Command for the operation to liberate West Irian.

During ABRI's history in the New Order era, the KOSTRAD force has become increasingly visible. These green-beret troops have never been absent from the various military operations, such as G-30-S/PKI [30 September Movement/Indonesian Communist Party], Trisula, the PGRS [Sarawak People's Guerrilla Force] in Sarawak, the PARAKU [North Kalimantan People's Force] in North Kalimantan, and Operation Seroja in East Timor. KOSTRAD troops have also been relied on at the international level, as was the case with Garuda troops in Egypt (1973-78) and Vietnam (1973-75) and with those in the combined peace force in the midst of the Iran-Iraq war of 1989 and 1990.

Consistent with the progression of history, in 1984 the PANGKOSTRAD became responsible to the ABRI commander for the conduct of combat operations, called defense and security operations. In the supervision of his units, however, he continued to be responsible to the KSAD.

At present, KOSTRAD has two infantry divisions: the 1st Division, headquartered at Cilodong, West Java, and the 2d Division, headquartered at Malang, East Java. Under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Tarub, KOSTRAD's position continued to expand, and it changed to become a reliable force that supports ABRI's mission and hope. For that reason, there has recently emerged a call to eliminate the term "reserve" from KOSTRAD.

Wiranto himself is not new to KOSTRAD ranks. Wiranto, who was born in Yogyakarta on 4 April 1947, served as deputy assistant for operations to KASKOSTRAD [KOSTRAD chief of staff] in 1987 and 1988 and assistant for operations in KOSTRAD's 2d Division in 1988 and 1989. Since November 1994, Wiranto has been PANGDAM JAYA, replacing Major General Hendro Priyono. Wiranto is the first 1968 alumnus of the AMN to become a KODAM [military area command] commander.

As PANGDAM JAYA, Wiranto's leadership was quite impressive, and his actions drew approval from the community. Besides sending privates to school, he received warm approval for assigning 2,000 of his men to the streets to ensure the success of the National Discipline Movement, proclaimed by President Suharto in May 1995. Wiranto's "capital" is indeed adequate for achieving success. Despite his busy job, he was still able to earn a bachelor's degree. When he attended LEMHANAS [National Defense Institute] last year, he was ranked first.

Wiranto himself still has not had much to say. He acknowledged that he is still grateful for his promotion. "As for KOSTRAD, we will talk about that later," he said quietly. He is determined to continue the program implemented by the previous PANGKOSTRAD. "The important thing," he said, "is that the job entrusted to me must be done well."

Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso, Jakarta Area

Along with the prominence of Lt. Gen. Wiranto, the light also shines on Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso, who with Brigadier General Susilo Bambang at his side, leads the KODAM JAYA.

Following the PANGKOSTRAD change, came the transfer of the PANGDAM JAYA post from Lt. Gen. Wiranto to Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso, who previously was KASDAM JAYA. Sutiyoso is a 1968 graduate of the AMN. Like Wiranto, Sutiyoso apparently will not have any problem performing his new job, because Sutiyoso has been a senior officer who implemented Wiranto's policies in the KODAM JAYA.

Born in Semarang on 6 December 1943, Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso promises to continue what Wiranto initiated. They appear to have been a compact duet in the KODAM JAYA. "I was KASDAM JAYA. Thus, I and my staff will carry out Wiranto's policies. I know all of them. Therefore, it remains only to decide which ones need to be enhanced, sharpened, and adapted," he said.

As for concrete details, Sutiyoso appeared unwilling to say more about them. "Just wait. When I have become

PANGDAM, it will be easy to answer you. For now, it's not easy, guys. I'm being big-headed about it. Ha, ha, ha," he said. In other words, he did not feel comfortable with replying now.

Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso has spent almost his entire career in the ranks of the Special Forces Command (KOPASSUS). From the post of platoon commander (1971), he rose steadily until he became deputy commander of Group I. He became assistant for personnel and after that assistant for operations to the KOPASSUS commander (1989). He became assistant for operations to the KASKOSTRAD but then returned to red beret headquarters as deputy commander of KOPASSUS in 1992. From there, he became commander of Surya Kencana KOREM [Military Resort Command] at Bogor. It was probably then that he met President Suharto, because when Pak Harto had time on Sundays he always went to the agriculture complex at Tapos, Bogor, an area under the Bogor KOREM. Sutiyoso was then entrusted with the post of KASDAM, at Wiranto's side.

Sutiyoso, the father of two children, had suitable training. Besides Infantry SUSCAB [expansion unknown], SUSLAPA [Advanced Supply Officers Course], SESKOAD [Army Staff and Command School], and LEMHANAS, he twice received intelligence training. In 1990, he attended joint service staff training (similar to the SESKOGAB [Joint Staff and Command School]) at the Army College in Canberra, Australia. He then took airborne courses in Britain and at Fort Bragg in the United States. His training was demonstrated in the field. In 1994, he was chosen as the best KOREM commander. As commander of the Bogor KOREM, his role in providing security for the APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] conference in Bogor in 1994 was considered significant. His name then became more well known when he was successful in resolving the land compensation case at Rancamaya, Bogor, in one month.

As a well-experienced officer with experience in the red beret ranks, Sutiyoso was much involved in operations, from the PGRS and PARAKU operations in Kalimantan to the Independent Aceh operation and Operation Seroja in East Timor.

In maintaining security in the capital, Maj. Gen. Sutiyoso is assisted by Brig. Gen. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, 47, as chief of staff KODAM JAYA. Yudhoyono, a 1973 graduate of the AKABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces Academy], is the son-in-law of the late General Sarwo Edhi, the well-known RPKAD [Army Commando Regiment] commander in 1966. Earlier, Bambang served as chief of UN military observers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This senior officer began his career with the 17th BRIGIF LINUD [Airborne Infantry Brigade]/Kujang I of KOSTRAD. He rose to commandant of the Training School at the Army Infantry Training Center and then to battalion commander in Udayana (1986-88). He served as a lecturer at the SESKOAD and was entrusted with the post of coordinating officer for the SPRI [Personal Staff] of the ABRI commander. He steadily rose until he became a one-star general.

Indonesia: Official Discusses Higher Economic Growth in 1995

BK1904104496 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Suharto received Ginanjar Kartasasminta, minister of state for national development planning and chairman of the National Planning Board, and Sugito Suwito, head of the Central Bureau of Statistics, at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta on 18 April.

Following the meeting, they said that Indonesia's economic growth reached 8.07 percent in 1995, much higher than the 7.48 percent achieved in 1994. This means Indonesia's economic growth rate in the second year of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan was 0.97 percent higher than the average targeted growth of 7.1 percent per year.

They also reported that per capita income has increased. The per capita income of GDP rose to $1,023 in 1995 from $920 in 1994. According to Ginanjar, if based on GNP, per capita income for 1995 was $978, up from $886 in 1994.

GDP is the total of economic activities within the country, while GNP includes GDP plus the economic activities of Indonesian citizens overseas.

Explaining the increase in GDP, GNP, and economic growth, Ginanjar reaffirmed that Indonesia's economic performance is very good — much better that expected. "The government just revised the growth target from 6.2 percent to 7.1 percent. Nevertheless, over the past two years of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan, 1994 and 1995, economic growth has exceeded the 7.1 percent target," he said.

Foreign Aid Required [subhead]

Responding to a journalist's question on the impact of the higher per capita income and economic growth on foreign aid, Ginanjar said it is impossible to estimate. "I would like to tell the world that our national per capita income is still below $1,000. Besides, we still need development cooperation from other countries," he said.

Even though statistics show a reduction in the number of poor people from 70 to 25 million — or from 60 to 40 percent of the total population — within a period of 20 years, there is development disparity between Java and other areas.

"We must construct transportation facilities. We must build cross-country roads in Irian Jaya, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, and other places. We must build additional ports, ships, schools, institutions of higher learning, high schools, and so on. We hope that international organizations and friendly countries will continue helping us carry out our development program," Ginanjar said. [passage omitted]

Laos

Laos: Prosecution Director Receives Chinese Delegation

BK2204105996 Vientiane KPL in English 0952 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 22 (KPL) — Mr. Ounla Sai-gnasan, member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party CC [Central Committee] and director of the People's Prosecution of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], on April 19, received here the visiting delegation of the Supreme Prosecution Organisation of China led by its deputy-chief, Mr. Zhao Hong.

During the warm and cordial meeting, the Lao director welcomed the visit of the Chinese delegation which was in response to the invitation of the Lao People's Prosecution. He considered that this visit will contribute to the tightening of the friendship relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the two nations, especially between the two prosecution organisations.

On this occasion, the chief of the Chinese delegation informed Mr. Ounla Sai-gnasan about the positive outcome in exchanging experiences between the two organisations.

Laos: Sisavat Keobounphan Elected State Vice President

BK2004140696 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of his election as vice president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by the 8th plenary session of the 3d National Assembly [words indistinct], Sisavat Keobounphan, [words indistinct], has expressed profound gratification for having been elected to the post of vice president of the LPDR, saying that it is a great honor given to him by the party, state, and multiethnic people.

Concerning the auspicious election, Sisavat Keobounphan wholeheartedly thanked the 8th plenary session of the 3d National Congress and pledged to do his utmost [words indistinct] the consolidated strength of the party and state in fulfilling the tasks of national defense and national development, aimed at turning Laos into a country with peace, independence, unification, democracy, and prosperity.

At the end of his pledge, he wished the 8th plenary session of the 3d National Assembly a brilliant success.

Laos: Government Appointments Endorsed by Assembly

BK2104102396 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Apr 96

["Press briefing" by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the party Central Committee, member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, head of the Secretariat Commission, and head of the office of the National Assembly on the proceedings undertaken by the 8th plenary session of the 3d National Assembly in the past three days; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the morning of 20 April 1996, the 8th plenary session of the 3d National Assembly proceeded to elect the vice president of state and endorsed the appointments of a deputy prime minister and the deputy ministers of some ministries. The session voted to elect Sisavat Keobounphan, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and former minister of agriculture and forestry, as vice president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This is the first time that our country has ever had a vice president of state. This is an important task accomplished by the session in accordance with the laws. Second, also this morning the session voted to endorse the appointments of Boun-gnang Volachit, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and former mayor of Vientiane Municipality, as deputy prime minister; Bouathong Vonglokham, member of the party Central Committee and former vice chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation, as chairman of the State Planning Committee; Dr Pommek Dalaloi as minister of public health; Khamsai Souphanouvong, former minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, as head of the National Economic Institute; and Sian Saphangthong, former deputy minister of agriculture and forestry, as acting minister of agriculture and forestry.

All this is the accomplishment of the 20 April morning session of the meeting in electing a vice president of state and endorsing the appointments to some positions in the government. [passage omitted]

Laos: Further Details on Cabinet Reshuffle Reported

BK2104110996 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 21 Apr 96 p A3

[Report by Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane — The Lao National Assembly yesterday approved a cabinet reshuffle, promoting technocrats without party credentials in a move to strengthen the administrative branch and the government.

The reshuffle was accompanied by an appraisal of the government's economic policy and foreign investment mechanisms to accommodate the decisions of the sixth party congress and changes to the Politburo in March.

National Assembly chairman Lt Gen Saman Vi-gnaket presented the cabinet list for approval at the assembly's eighth ordinary session yesterday morning.

It was the third round of cabinet changes in five years and follows a major reshuffle after the fifth party congress in 1991, when Kaysone Phomvihan rose to his zenith as the party's chairman and president of Laos.

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Gen Sisavat Keobounphan, who was in March reinstated to the Politburo after he was dropped in 1991, was elected by the assembly as the country's first vice president in 20 years, to assist ageing President Nouhak Phoumsavan and act on his behalf in his absence.

Vientiane Governor Maj Boun-gnang Volachit, a new Politburo member, was named deputy prime minister, filling the post left vacant by the death of deputy prime minister and foreign minister Phoun Sipaseut in 1994.

Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha, who was removed from the Politburo and the party's central committee, kept his position but is unlikely to retain the power he had previously in handling foreign economic relations.

Three ministerial slots were affected by the reshuffle and two minister-equivalent posts were created heading two new ministry- level national bodies — the State Planning Committee (SPC) and the National Institute for the Study of Economic Strategy.

Bouathong Vonglokham, one of six Central Planning Committee vice chairmen, was promoted to head the new SPC, which will handle economic policy and planning. PM's [Prime Minister's] Office Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong, who was also dropped from the party's central committee, was appointed chairman of the new economic think-tank. The position is equivalent to a ministry.

Khamsai was replaced as PM's minister by the acting Minister for Public Health and former ambassador to Cuba, Vannalet Latsapho. His role as chief of cabinet in the PM's office was taken over by Cheuang Sombounkhan, deputy chief cabinet officer of the party's central committee.

Ponmek Dalaloy, a former ambassador to China, took Vannalet's place at the Ministry of Public Health.

Gen Sisavat was replaced as agriculture minister by his deputy Sian Saphangthong, a veteran of the ministry.

With the new SCP in place, the role of powerful ministerial-level CPC [Cooperation and Planning Committee] be reduced to handling foreign investment and will come under the Prime Minister's Office. It was not clear whether Khamphoui would still head the CPC.

The new economic think-tank which Khamsai will head was created as a result of a resolution of the sixth party congress to commission research and studies on national economic development strategy, to stay in pace with the global economy.

Khamphoui, Communications Minister Phao Bounnaphon, and Khamsai were earlier thought to have been stripped of all administrative positions following their total defeat in the March election of the Central Committee.

A political observer saw the latest reshuffle as an example of traditional compromise in the party's top echelons.

He said the changes demonstrated the party's overwhelming power over the administrative branch, even though more technocrats without party credentials were promoted into the government.

The National Assembly will next Thursday vote on the national budget for fiscal year 1996-1997, which is expected to slash the administrative budget and increase public spending on rural development.

Law makers are also expected to approve an amendment to Article 135 of the Criminal Code to increase maximum penalties for drug trafficking.

It will increase the maximum fine from 10 million kip to 50 million kip. Jail terms will also be increased to a maximum life imprisonment, up from 10 years, and a minimum two to seven years, up from six months.

Laos: Assembly Deliberates Implementation of State Budget Plan

BK2204110096 Vientiane KPL in English 0900 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL) — The Eighth Ordinary Session of the National Assembly yesterday, on its second day, deliberated the implementation of the state budgetary plan approved by the Assembly at the previous session and the proposed amendment to the state budget for the second half of this year.

The reports on the implementation of the state budgetary plan and the amendment to the state budget for the second half of this year point out that the economic, financial and monetary situation in the first half of this year has gradually been normalised. The rate of inflation went down from 25 percent at the end of 1995 to 19 percent.

This year's income approved by the National Assembly is fixed at 220.3 billion kip. In the first half of this year, the state income amounted to 105.7 billion kip, fulfilling the target and a rise of 46.2 percent over that of last year's corresponding period which totalled 72.3 billion kip.

The proposed amendment to the approved figure of this year's income is 229.8 billion kip instead of 220.3 billion kip.

Thailand

Thailand: U.S. 'Taking Steps' To Ban Thai Shrimp Imports

BK2204094296 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 96 p 19

[Report by Chatrudi Thepharat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A pending ban on almost a quarter of Thailand's shrimp exports to the United States may be compounded by an environmental group's move to raise the issue with the United Nations.

The US federal government is taking steps to ban shrimp imports beginning May 1 from scores of countries that do not require their shrimpers to protect endangered turtles.

The Earth Island Institute wants the UN to discuss the issue at its meeting on sustainable development of coastal fishery industries

The UN's standing committee on sustainable fisheries development is scheduled to meet in July in New York. If the UN discussed the issue, Thailand and other countries would face a more serious situation even though the UN did not have the power to impose an embargo, said Fisheries Department director- general Plotprasop Suratsawadi.

Pressure could be put on some countries through raising the issue with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, as well as the fisheries development committee.

The embargo would be discussed at the ASEAN economic ministers' informal meeting in Singapore today, where member countries were expected to prepare their case to counter the US move, he said.

Embargoed countries will be able to continue exporting some' shrimps to the US, as long as they are harvested under certain conditions without harm to turtles.

However, the move may cost Thailand sales worth five billion baht annually, compared with the current annual value of both marine and farm-bred shrimp exports to the US of 22 billion baht. Thailand's total shrimp exports are worth 66 billion baht a year

Mr Plotprasop said department officials would counter claims by the institute and provide full information on Thailand's shrimp farms to the standing committee.

The US Court of International Trade upheld the institute's call for a ban to be imposed on marine shrimp imports to the US from 56 countries that allegedly failed to adopt laws to protect turtles along the lines of legislation in the US. One provision is that trawlers must use turtle-extruder devices (TEDs).

Originally, the embargo affected only countries in the West Indies, but has been widened to nations on every continent.

Mr Plotprasop said the US Commerce Department was likely to fail in its appeal for the Court of International Trade to postpone the ban by a year until May 1, 1997.

Thai officials in Washington had been told that if the appeal failed, the Commerce Department would take its case to the US Appeals Court which has the power to overturn any decision by the trade court, he said. However, consideration of the case by the Appeals Court might not be completed before the embargo took effect.

The embargo means US shrimp imports can legally come only from countries with TEDs programmes certified by the State Department or countries with shrimp harvested under the following conditions:

— The shrimps are cold-water species harvested in areas lacking sea turtles like the waters off Iceland and Norway;

— They were harvested in an aquaculture pond — a shrimp farm; or,

— They were harvested by hand or by some other traditional, or so-called artisinal, method without mechanical nets. Some environmental groups are expected to object to this condition.

Most likely to be affected by the embargo are high-volume exporters which apart from Thailand include China and India and some Pacific Rim nations.

Thailand ought to raise the ban at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Singapore this December, Mr Plotprasop said.

Thailand Not To Rescreen Lao Refugees After U.S. Interviews

BK2004125596 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane — Lao refugees who remain in Thailand after interviews for resettlement in the United States end in October will not be rescreened by Thai authorities.

The Thai Ambassador to Vientiane, Somphan Kokilanon, said yesterday that screening would not be undertaken as it could create false hopes for the future.

Further screening would only complicate the repatriation process, Somphan said. It would be wrong to raise hopes of resettlement in another country.

"There is no other resettlement offer, except for the American one," he said.

About 6,000 Lao refugees remain in Thailand.

They arrived prior to the 1989 cut-off date and were granted automatic status as refugees.

Somphan said the Foreign Ministry conveyed the Thai position to the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva earlier this week.

The message was in response to comments made by the UNHCR representative in Bangkok, Ruprecht von Arnim, who said he hoped that the Thai authorities would arrange another round of interviews for Lao refugees who fail the U.S. interview but still feel they would need protection from political retribution if they went home.

Somphan said the Thai ambassador in Geneva would seek a meeting with the UNHCR chief to explain the government's position. Thailand disagreed with forced repatriation and had no policy to reduce basic amenities for Lao refugees remaining in the two camps to pressure them to go home.

"We will only limit the extravagant use of electricity and water, for economic reasons," the ambassador said.

On April 1, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok announced fresh interviews would be held at Napho and Sikhiu camps from April until October to allow the refugees a last chance to apply for resettlement in the United States.

U.S. officials said they had registered 2,500 refugees from 450 families at Napho for interview since the process began on Wednesday.

Problems could arise if those who are not accepted for settlement in the U.S. do not want to return to Laos. Vientiane has made it clear it will not accept forced repatriation.

Thai, Lao and UNHCR representatives are scheduled to meet in Laos before June to determine the future of those refugees who remain in Thailand after the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for the repatriation of Indochinese refugees expires in June.

Although the repatriation of Lao refugees is outside the CPA framework, Thailand hopes to clear them from the camps as soon as possible.

Laos however wants to see the result of the extended U.S. resettlement process before the meeting takes place.

Thai Official on U.S Resettlement Chance for SRV Refugees

BK2204084596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 96 p 9

[Report by Anurat Maniphan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has welcomed the United States decision to give Vietnamese asylum seekers a new chance for resettlement in the U.S. and hopes boat people at Sikhiu will take advantage of the opportunity.

The estimated 4,800 Vietnamese at Sikhiu, in Nakhon Ratchasima province, "should regard this as their last chance for resettlement in the U.S.," said Khachatphai Burutphat, deputy secretary-general of the National Security Council.

To be eligible to apply the boat people must first return to Vietnam for a new round of interviews with U.S. immigration officials.

If they do not return to Vietnam, the asylum seekers will be sent home under the memorandum of understanding Thailand and Vietnam signed last year for orderly repatriation, Mr Khachatphai added.

The Vietnamese at Sikhiu are among an estimated 35,000 Vietnamese boat people living in camps in Southeast Asia who are being offered a new chance to apply for resettlement.

Many were earlier refused, largely on grounds they were economic migrants rather than political refugees.

Mr Khachatphai said he was confident the U.S. decision would not lead to a new exodus from Vietnam.

U.S. authorities have made clear the screening will "not be open to new arrivals," he pointed out.

A U.S. Embassy official in Bangkok said only Vietnamese who were registered in camps as of October 1, 1995, or who had returned to Vietnam by then, are eligible for the new screening by U.S. authorities.

The official said applications for the interviews have to be submitted by June 30, 1996, when UN funding for first asylum countries runs out.

U.S. immigration authorities and embassy officials are today due to go to Sikhiu to announce the new screening procedure to the people there.

Similar announcements will be made today and tomorrow in other first asylum camps in the region.

Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong also play host to Vietnamese boat people who were earlier "screened out."

Malaysia, which is sheltering some 4,000 Vietnamese, on Thursday sent 317 back to Vietnam by boat.

Mr Khachatphai declined to speculate on the number of Vietnamese at Sikhiu who might be accepted by the U.S. this time around.

But U.S. authorities, under strong pressure from Republicans in Congress, have broadened the criteria for the admission.

While confirmation of the additional criteria was unavailable, sources said openings for ethnic groups and those who engaged in political and religious activities appeared new.

A U.S. Embassy official in Bangkok on Saturday listed these two categories as among people of "special interest" to the U.S.

Thailand: EU Under Pressure To Continue Low Tariffs

BK2104093896 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 96 p 24

[Report by Somphon Thapanachai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has stepped up its long-running campaign to convince the European Union (EU) to continue granting tariff concessions under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for Thai farm products.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan recently sent a letter to EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan asking him to help convince EU members to give favourable treatment to Thailand by applying the same GSP rate to all Thai farm products.

The EU is in the process of launching a new GSP programme for farm products under which preferential tariffs would be granted on the basis of the sensitivity of the farm industries.

The new programme would mean a gradual reduction in preferences for recipient countries.

More than 80% of Thai farm products exported to EU countries would be classified on the very sensitive list which would qualify them for a tariff reductions of only 15% below the normal rate.

The existing GSP programme grants GSP benefits in quotas for specific items annually, making it easier for Thai exporters to compete.

Exporters fear the new rules would hit Thailand's seafood, cut flower and processed food industries especially hard.

A Foreign Trade Department source said Thailand had earlier asked Thai Commercial Counsellor offices in EU member countries to stress that Thailand relies heavily on the GSP benefits to help its farm product exports.

The European Commission is expected to consider the new GSP programme for farm products next week and, if approved, it would go into effect at the beginning of July.

Thailand has asked the EU to review the list of Thai products that have been placed on the sensitive list, especially those three sectors that would suffer the most under the new GSP regulations.

However, EU officials have said they can only undertake a review of specific items.

Thai seafood exporters have taken a strong stance, banding together to pressure the Government to take action to protect their interests. They have warned that the new GSP would devastate major Thai exports of frozen shrimp, squid and fish to the EU.

As an example of what the regulations would mean, they released a document that said import duties levied on Thai frozen raw shrimp would increase from the current 4.5% to 10.8% in July under the EU plan. The duties would rise further to 14.4% by January.

The rate for frozen cooked shrimp products would rise from 6% to 14% in July and to 20% in January.

The volume of Thai frozen shrimp products to the EU and other countries — excluding Japan and the U.S. — last year was reported at 75,320 tons.

Exporters further complained that the rate to be used next January would be equivalent to the maximum rate now applied to countries that are classified as "developed countries" by the EU. Thailand should not be classified as developed because its gross national product (GNP) is still much lower than those of developed countries, they said.

An industry source said Thailand had earlier adopted a tougher stance by asking the EU to extend its existing GSP rates for at least the next ten years. At that time, the EU was also asked to increase its margin of preference, increase the fixed reduced duty amount and introduce special incentive arrangements.

Thailand: Australian Foreign Minister Arrives in Bangkok

BK2004141996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, has arrived in Bangkok for a three-day visit, the third leg of an Asian tour. Mr. Downer is due to meet his Thai counterpart, Kasemsamosan Kasemsi, tomorrow and Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha on Monday. Speaking in Singapore before leaving for Bangkok, Mr. Downer dismissed reports that Thailand was moving to block Australia's attendance at the next Asia-Europe Summit in London in 1998. He said it was highly unlikely that Thailand would block Australia and referred to strong support for Australia from Singapore and Indonesia.

Thailand: Australian Minister Reaffirms Commitment to Asia

BK2204064596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 96 p 8

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer yesterday reaffirmed his government's commitment to Asia despite an A$8 billion deficit which is expected to have an impact on Canberra's foreign policy and development aid.

"(Our) First foreign policy priority is engagement with Asia, that is absolutely fundamental to Australian foreign policy," he said.

Mr Downer, who took office just last month after the Liberal- National coalition victory in the Australian general election, highlighted three points of engagement that bode well for relations with the region.

He cited good personal relations with Asian leaders; a readiness to play a role in the development of multilateral institutions, such the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and the ASEAN Regional Forum; and strong bilateral relations.

"Part of engagement with Asia is having good personal relationships with the leaders of Asia's countries," he said.

Australia is seen to have made a concerted effort to be part of Asia, but relations between Canberra and Asia have been problematic at the leaders' level, especially with two of the region's most charismatic figures, Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamed and Singapore's Lee Kwan Yew.

"It is in Australia's best interest to pursue that policy because engagement with Asia means taking advantage of the enormous economic opportunities there... and secondly, because of Australia's geography, our security is obviously linked up with the security of Asia," he said.

Mr Downer said he expected a cut in Australian foreign aid to the region because of his country's A$8 billion deficit, but stressed that Asian leaders would understand.

"There will be some small reductions in our aid programme, I think the leadership in ASEAN understands it all too well.

"They all place high priority in getting their economies right, and they understand that we ought to do so as well.

Thailand Backs Australia's Bid To Join ASEM

BK2204064896 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Apr 96 pp A1, A2

[Report by Kawi Chongkitthawon and Sonny Inbaraj]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has come out in support of Australia's bid to join the Asia-Europe Meeting [ASEM] and expressed hope that Canberra would come up with ways to help develop the East Asian region.

Thailand also urged Australia to apply early so that it could attend the first ASEM foreign ministerial meeting to be held next year in London, Foreign Ministry spokesman Suraphong Chaiyanam said yesterday.

The spokesman said Thailand realizes the important roles, both economic and in security, Australia can play in East Asia that goes beyond its geographical location.

It was earlier reported that Thailand might block Australia's attempt to join ASEM.

Australia's membership was at the top of the agenda of a meeting between Thai Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and his Australian counterpart Alexander Downer. They also discussed bilateral cooperation and the upcoming joint commission meeting to be held soon.

Downer told Kasem that Australia was in the process of reviewing its policy toward Burma. Australia has issued a benchmark of its ties with Burma and urged the ASEAN countries to move cautiously in recognizing the military junta in Burma unless there are positive changes within it.

Suraphong said that Downer expressed his gratitude to Thailand for its support of Australia's candidature as a non-permanent member of the United Nations' Security Council this year.

In a separate interview with THE NATION, Downer said Australia has given support to India's bid to become a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Downer said.

Downer, who is on the last leg of visiting certain ASEAN countries, said that it would be a good idea for India to become a member of ARF. He said it would not mean that the ARF would change its focus and start debating issues like Kashmir.

He said Australia would like to see India participate on condition that the geographic focus of the ARF was not changed. "The Indians must be happy to go along with that," he said.

Several non-ASEAN ARF members oppose India's participation in the upcoming meeting to be held in Jakarta in July this year. As a full ASEAN dialogue partner, India is entitled to attend the meeting. Discussions were held among ARF and ASEAN members but a decision had yet to be made.

The regional security forum was formed in 1994 with 19 members including ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, China, the U.S., Canada, Russia, Laos, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and the European Union.

Australia also backs India's membership of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which is considering the removal of the three-year moratorium on membership.

Downer, who flew into Bangkok on Saturday, is scheduled to deliver a keynote speech at the 52nd Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ministerial meeting this morning. He is also scheduled to meet Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha before flying to Sydney.

Thai Deputy Foreign Minister on Results of Visit to Cambodia

BK2204084096 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Apr 96 p A7

[Report by Marisa Chimprapha]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh — Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha will sign an agreement to open the first permanent border checkpoints with Cambodia when he visits Phnom Penh in June, Deputy Foreign Minister Charat Phuachuai said yesterday.

Charat said the upgrading of the three current temporary checkpoints was in the hands of the Cambodians.

The existing checkpoints are in Sa Kaeo's Aranyaprathet district, linking with Poipet in Cambodia's Battambang province, Trat's Khlong Yai district linking with Koh Kong province, and Surin's Kap Choeng district, opposite Smach.

The officials concerned are working together effectively so that Banhan can sign the agreement to upgrade the checkpoints in the three provinces, which should boost bilateral trade and communication," Charat said.

Banhan will first visit Vientiane on June 19 and 20 and then Cambodia on June 20 and 21.

He is expected to sign the bilateral trade agreement with Phnom Penh, which has already ratified an investment protection agreement signed last year when Cambodian Second Premier Hun Sen visited Bangkok.

"The Cambodian side has ensured me they will do their best to set up the first three permanent checkpoints between Thailand and Cambodia," Charat said. "Permanent checkpoints will facilitate the collection of taxes on goods and products and the full enforcement of immigration rules."

According to the Thai Embassy in Phnom Penh, border trade between Thailand and Cambodia last year accounted for about 48 per cent of total bilateral trade of about [Thai baht] Bt12.31 billion. About 61 per cent of total Thai exports to Cambodia, totalling Bt8.32 billion, are from border trade.

A decision to upgrade the checkpoints was delayed by security concerns along the border resulting from sporadic military confrontations between Cambodian Government soldiers and Khmer Rouge guerrillas. "The Cambodian side has ensured me of security and safety in Cambodia and along the border. They inform me that the offer of amnesty for the Khmer Rouge to surrender to the government has been very successful. The Khmer Rouge is now weaker partly because most of those who surrender to the government were from their logistical units," Charat said.

The Khmer Rouge signed a peace pact in 1991 but has continued its insurgency against the elected Government of Cambodia. Thai border provinces have suffered from errant shelling during the fighting in Cambodia, sometimes resulting in deaths and injuries.

Armed Cambodians, sometimes impoverished government troops who have not been paid for months, often cross into Thailand to commit armed robberies.

Further, the border situation has become tense recently as Cambodian government troops attempted to capture the guerrillas' headquarters in Pailin, which is close to Chanthaburi and Trat provinces.

The government recently announced an end to its dry-season campaign of trying to root out the Khmer Rouge from Pailin.

It admitted to failing to dislodge the guerrillas from the city and said the upcoming wet season was forcing them to end their military advance, which took them within kilometres of the Khmer Rouge stronghold.

Charat yesterday completed a three-day official visit to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, where he met deputy governors of the border provinces of Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey and Battambang.

Charat said he proposed establishing "friendship shops" in border provinces of both countries where duty free goods would be available. The minister said that the Cambodian deputy governors agreed to the idea.

Also, "Siem Reap, which houses Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, has asked for help training university graduates as guides and hotel staff so that they can be well-prepared for foreigners visiting the historic sites," he said.

Thailand: Chawalit Involved in Satellite Project Chief's Removal

BK2204065196 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defence Permanent Secretary Gen Phaibun Emphan yesterday admitted that Defence Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut was directly involved in the transfer of the director of the Defence Technology & Telecommunication Centre, Air Marshal [AM] Wira Kanhasiri, to an inactive post at the Supreme Command.

Prior to the transfer, AM Wira was in charge of the centre's military satellite project.

Gen Phaibun, who is in direct command of AM Wira at the Defence Ministry, denied he played any role in the order. He said Gen Chawalit initiated the transfer and arranged for his own candidate, Lt-Gen Montri Suphaphon, to fill the post.

Gen Phaibun is reportedly dissatisfied with the decision.

AM Wira, who had been in charge of the military's telecommunication system over the past five years, was surprisingly moved to the inactive post during the mid-year military reshuffle.

AM Wira was promoted to the position by former defence permanent secretary Gen Prasoet Sararit only last October.

Gen Chawalit said the transfer was aimed at promoting AM Wira to a higher office.

However, AM Wira was posted as a senior military expert at the Supreme Command — a position widely known as an inactive post.

In the same reshuffle, Gen Chawalit also transferred the then Defense Deputy Permanent Secretary Gen Rawi Phromsakha na Sakon Nakhon to the chairmanship of the Defence Permanent Secretary's Advisory Board, a newly created position.

Gen Yuthasak Sasiprapha, director of the ministry's Office of Policy and Planning, was named as a new deputy permanent secretary.

The transfer of AM Wira is seen as a bid by Gen Chawalit to strengthen his power bases in the armed forces before the end of the year when all armed forces commanders, including the supreme commander and the defence permanent secretary, are due to retire.

The defence minister is upset with AM Wira over the results of the centre's original study on the military satellite project, according to an informed military source.

The study concluded the project would be used purely for military purposes and cost the armed forces around 28 billion baht for two satellites, two master control stations and a comprehensive suite of fixed and mobile users ground terminals.

Gen Chawalit wanted a replacement for AM Wira to conduct a fresh study endorsing the commercial viability of the project, the source said.

Thailand: Banhan's Difficulties Over Satellite Project Noted

BK2204094396 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 22 Apr 96 p A1

[News Analysis by Benchasak Bamrung: "Military Plan Threatens to Destabilize Government"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Approving the military satellite project will become crucial to the survival of the government, and Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha has no choice but to ask cabinet to go ahead with the military's plan.

Defense Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut and his New Aspiration Party [New Aspiration Party], the second largest coalition member, have been pushing hard to get cabinet approval for the project, despite disagreements among government agencies and politicians as well as public opposition. It is feared that the 26-billion-baht project will increase the country's already massive current account deficit.

Chawalit will today make his pitch to Cabinet, hoping the body will approve the project at its meeting next week.

Approving the "Star of Siam" project will help the government survive the upcoming no-confidence debate, according to political analysts.

Chawalit initiated the project many years ago when he served as the supreme commander, but his dream was shattered by some politicians and Finance Ministry officials, who said the project was not a worthwhile investment.

According to the plan, two satellites would be launched, the first in the year 2000 and the second three years later.

Each will function for less than 15 years in space.

Chawalit resigned from his military post in 1991, and entered the politics by establishing the NAP. He has since relentlessly pursued his dream of launching the satellite project.

The NAP has belonged to many coalition governments, including the last administration led by Chuan Likphai, but has never managed to get his satellites off the ground.

According to analysts, the time is ripe for Chawalit to make his bid. The Banhan government is about to face a tough no-confidence debate, set for May 8-10, which many fear will cause the government to lose what little credibility it has left.

Banhan has no choice but to give the green light to the Star of Siam in order to maintain unity within the government.

Banhan will not allow the six-party coalition — sworn in just eight months ago — to dissolve as a result of Chawalit's NAP withdrawing.

It is feared that Chawalit will lead the NAP across the floor to join the opposition, making himself prime minister.

Another possible scenario is that Banhan will dissolve the House and call for a general election.

According to analysts, approval of the Star of Siam will not come easily, as many members of the coalition disagree with the project. However, it is believed Banhan will support it regardless of whether it has any merit.

According to one analyst, it will be very difficult for the prime minister to justify the project to save his seat.

Thailand: Navy Plan To Buy Submarines 'May Be Delayed'

BK2004130196 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The planned purchase of two submarines may not be included in the 1997 expenditure budget due to the country's present financial difficulties, Navy Commander in Chief Adm [Admiral] Prachet Siridet said yesterday.

Adm Prachet, however, maintained the submarines were being given top priority in the Navy's procurement list.

The submarines will not be used for combat but for law-keeping missions, he said.

Adm Prachet said the project depended on whether or not the Cabinet decided to further delay the purchase plan, but said waiting too long could mean a higher price tag. The price of two submarines was initially estimated at 17 billion baht.

According to the Navy chief: "We have tried in every way to the best of our ability. But if we can't acquire them we will have to resign ourselves to waiting a bit longer.

"In fact, we want to do it in 1997 but all we can do now is wait."

A Supreme Command source said Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha had made it clear to Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit that the government did not blame the military's armament procurements projects for causing the country's current account deficit.

However, Mr Banhan said the Navy's plan to buy two submarines may be delayed because of budgetary constraints, the source said.

Moreover, the source claimed Mr Banhan was afraid the Navy would choose Swedish submarine builder Kockums to supply the submarines. If that were the case, the bribe-taking allegation against some leading members of his party would be dug up again, the source said.

Thai Military Plans To Buy Tanks, Armored Cars

BK2204065796 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 96 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A one billion baht budget increase for the Supreme Command is earmarked for the purchase of tanks, armoured cars and air defence equipment, it was revealed yesterday.

Defence Comptroller General Woraphan Worasakyothin said the money is part of the five billion baht defence budget.

He said the Army wanted 300 armoured cars while the Marines needed 17 light tanks to boost their firepower. The Air Force, meanwhile, wanted to purchase two air defence systems, he added.

Despite the extra money, which is to be considered by the Cabinet today as part of wider increases in the government budget, Lt-Gen Woraphan maintained the growth rate of the defence budget had steadily declined "to a level below the inflation rate".

He did not anticipate the defence budget would be opposed in the Parliament, saying the armed forces had always got what had already been allocated to them.

Meanwhile Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit, who has returned from a visit to a tank-manufacturing company in the United States, said he was satisfied with the performance of a new version of the Stingray light tank.

But he was waiting to hear from Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Prachet Siridet if the Marines wanted Stingray light tanks, he said.

Vietnam

SRV: Do Muoi Opening Speech at Party Plenum

BK2204085696 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 April 96

[Speech by Party General Secretary Do Muoi delivered at the opening session of party Central Committee's 10th Plenum in Hanoi on 12 April; read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear party advisers and comrades of the party Central Committee: Today, we convene the seventh party Central Committee's 10th Plenum according to schedule. This plenum is of great significance in the preparations for the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress. At this plenum, the party Central Committee will discuss some of the contents as follows:

1. Providing viewpoints on collecting various proposals to supplement, amend, and perfect various draft documents for submission to the Eighth National Party Congress: In the past, we have solicited widely ideas from various sectors, echelons, and circles and have received many from party organization congresses at the grass-roots and above levels, the expanded conferences of party committees in various provinces and municipalities; a number of party committees affiliated to the party Central Committee; various conferences of mass organizations, the intelligentsia, scientists, and artist and literary groups; the expanded conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, from various training courses of leading cadres at the Ho Chi Minh National Political Institute, and many letters from individuals sent to the party Central Committee.

These contributed are very useful and valuable. They manifest the high sense of responsibility of all party organizations, mass societies, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and all people toward the revolutionary cause of our party and nation. We must seriously collect ideas in order to revise, supplement, and amend draft party documents or to include this task in the action program of various echelons and sectors. For proposals which have not been included for immediate use, we must continue to study and use them. Efforts must be made to broaden democracy to enable all people to participate in discussing state affairs. The draft documents of the national party congress have also been made public through various mass media. This has enabled people from all strata to contribute ideas and raise proposals to help the party formulate correct lines and policies that are in conformity with the law and the people's aspiration, and that will win their support and enthusiastic participation when these are implemented. We must solemnly and seriously gather ideas from the people to continue perfecting the draft documents to be submitted to the Eighth National Party Congress.

2. Discussions on preparation for personnel for the Eighth National Party Congress: One of the key tasks of this plenum is to introduce to congress for selection various competent cadres who meet the requirements of the revolutionary task in the new stage — i.e the acceleration of industrialization and modernization to build a prosperous people, a powerful country, and an equitable and civilized society — to firmly advance toward socialism.

To satisfactorily carry out this task, it is necessary to carefully examine the character and capability of these cadres who are to be introduced and selected for the eighth party Central Committee. Character should be used as a basis to determine their quality. This is because their characters would reveal their loyalty to the ideals and revolutionary objectives of the party, their political concepts, their steadfastness against all ordeals, their purity and honesty in placing public interest first, their wholehearted sacrifice for the nation and people, and their actions which clearly show their leadership and faithfulness as a servant of the people, as taught by Uncle Ho.

Character is also manifested in a pure lifestyle of self and family; one's practice of diligence, thrift, integrity, impartiality, and selflessness; one's positive efforts to combat corruption, wasteful spending, and bureaucraticism; and one's endeavors to make our party genuinely pure, firm, and strong.

In evaluating the party, the people first evaluate the contingent of cadres from the comrade members of the Party Central Committee to cadres in charge of all echelons and sectors. Therefore, you, comrades, must be the first to set examples for others to follow. You must match your words with your deeds and serve the revolutionary cause on a voluntary basis. Constant efforts must be made to protect and safeguard the good image and prestige of the party and henceforth, consolidate and increase the people's confidence in our party.

Along with character, selected cadres must have competence and talents, first of all, a profound and serious understanding of party policies and lines, and must have necessary knowledge and competence to carry out the heavy tasks entrusted by the party. They must also have good leadership skills and a high sense of organization in order to effectively combine the various activities falling under their responsibility. At the same time, they must have strategically sound viewpoints and the ability to join hands with the collective in formulating and implementing party policies and lines.

Recommended cadres must be those who has set good examples in complying with the party statute and with those principles governing party organization and activities, especially the principles of democratic centralism. They must be those who have shown respect for the law, have firmly observed discipline, have scrupulously carried out criticism and self-criticism, have been intent on maintaining and consolidating unity and unanimity within the party, have had an uncompromising determination to eliminate all negative phenomena and to fight against individualism, against the tendency to seek special privileges, and against the violations of democratic principles within the internal ranks and of the people's right to mastery. They must strive to learn and undergo training to improve their knowledge in all aspects and must constantly struggle to fulfill their assigned missions in an outstanding fashion.

This time, at the party congresses of various levels and at the national party congress, along with recommending a number of incumbent party committee members for election to new party committees, we must pay specific and appropriate attention to further rejuvenating the contingent of leading cadres. We must also attach importance to the selection of young, ethical, and competent and healthy cadres capable of shouldering their assigned duties so as to ensure the continuity and succession for the leadership cadre structure of the party, state, and mass organizations.

As cadre selection is of decisive importance for the revolution undertaking, the destiny of the nation, the thinking of the fatherland, and the future of the nation, our party Central Committee must uphold its responsibility before the party and the people. It must do this job to the best of its capability with an impartial and pure spirit for the sake of our collective benefits.

The Personnel Subcommittee will brief the party Central Committee on what it has prepared and on steps to be taken so the latter can consider and make decisions.

In addition to the main points cited above, at this plenum, the Political Bureau will also report and seek the advice of the party Central Committee on some other specific tasks.

Dear comrades: It will be only a little more than two months before the Eighth National Party Congress and we still have so much work to do. I suggest that you, comrades, work urgently and efficiently to satisfactorily fulfill the aims of the national party congress and to contribute significantly to the success of the congresses of various province and city party organizations, of party organizations under the central authority, and of the national party congress.

On behalf of the Political Bureau, I declare the Seventh Party Central Committee's 10th plenum open.

SRV: Do Muoi's Closing Speech at Party Plenum

BK2204105696 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Apr 96

[Speech by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at the closing session of the Central Committee's 10th Plenum in Hanoi on 20 April — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Comrade Advisers and Comrade Members of the Party Central Committee: The 10th plenum of the seventh party Central Committee has completed its task after working for nine days with a high sense of urgency and responsibility. The plenum gave its views on the comments regarding supplements and amendments to finalize the documents to be presented to the eighth party congress. The plenum also discussed a number of issues relating to personnel preparations for the national party congress.

Regarding the first issue — discussing the comments on supplements and amendments to finalize the draft documents — all comrade members of the party Central Committee basically shared the same view as the Political Bureau report on the reception of comments and held that the report was prepared meticulously, seriously, and convincingly. The party Central Committee discussed these documents many times at its ninth plenum and many issues were resolved. This time, opinions focussed mainly on analyses, clarifications, and supplements with a view to shedding more light on various major issues included in the draft documents to be presented to the upcoming party congress. The party Central Committee has also voted on a number of questions on which different views remained.

The resolution of this plenum serves as a very important basis for further supplements and amendments to finalize all congress documents in combination with comments and recommendations of provincial and city party organization congresses and the congresses of party organizations attached to the party Central Committee, as well as the entire people.

The party Central Committee has instructed the Political Bureau to provide guidance in editing and finalizing the congress documents for submission to the 11th plenum of the party Central Committee for approval. With regard to those views that are different and not ready for use this time, further debates and discussions are needed before reaching concrete decisions.

Regarding the second issue — discussing a number of issues relating to documentation and preparations for recommendation of personnel for the eighth party congress — the party Central Committee made it clear that this would be a key issue of the upcoming party congress. The views were very sincere, straightforward, and candid, thus reflecting a profound awareness of the requirements of the revolutionary undertaking and of the fate of our nation as well as a very high sense of duty toward our party and people.

The party Central Committee unanimously concurred on the criteria, composition, quality, and quantity of a new party Central Committee and Political Bureau and on the contents and methods to select personnel for the eighth party Central Committee and Political Bureau.

The eighth party congress will be a congress where debate will focus on the industrialization and modernization program designed to make the people rich and the nation powerful, bring about justice and civilization in society, and firmly advance the country toward socialism. To this end, the congress will have to select a party leadership that is qualified for the new tasks.

The party Central Committee has for more than a year now made active personnel preparations for the eighth party congress. This plenum has made very important preparations toward that end. Our party's responsibility is to build a firm, strong, and highly qualified party Central Committee representing the qualifications and wisdom of our entire party and nation and having high prestige, and with a Political Bureau as the nucleus that is truly steadfast, firm, and capable of ensuring unity and single-mindedness to guide our country while entering a new stage of development.

All leading party organizations must ensure continuity and development with the three age brackets and rejuvenation aimed at meeting the requirements of the tasks for the coming five years as well as preparing for the constant development of the next term. Those who will be elected to the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau must qualify both in virtue and capability, with virtue as the base. Special attention must be given to political integrity, ethics, lifestyle, sense of organization and discipline, and spirit of solidarity and unity. Anyone who is a political opportunist, who is lacking in political acumen or courage, or who is involved in corruption and so forth will never be chosen for the Central Committee.

All comrades of the party Central Committee should review and examine their own conduct. They should examine and take responsibility for the conduct of the people they introduce into the party while striving to review the situation of the contingent of cadres at various party organization congresses in provinces and municipalities.

Reality has proven that there must be serious and strict personnel selection and management. All policies and political tasks of the party can only be successful when there is a contingent of cadres with high qualifications, a qualified leading body, a proper organizational system, and a scientific work style.

The party Central Committee Political Bureau will use the decisions of this plenum as a base to continue making personnel preparations and providing more information to clarify a number of issues so the party Central Committee may review and make decisions at the party Central Committee's 11th plenum.

Personnel preparation for the national party congress is a great and important task of the party Central Committee. It is recommended that comrades of the party Central Committee take time and make more efforts to carry out personnel preparations. Satisfactory efforts should be made to find the best solution for submission to the eighth national party congress. The party Central Committee also provided frank and profound ideas on other issues raised at this plenum.

The convening of the party Central Committee's 10th Plenum once again manifested a strong, united, and collective single-minded Central Committee of our party that wholeheartedly works for the cause of our party and nation. Experience shows that to achieve this we must consistently and firmly grasp and adhere to issues of principle characteristics, carry out true democracy, and conduct frank and honest discussions. In voting, we must satisfactorily carry out the principle of democratic centralism, the minority must submit to the majority, and individuals must serve the organization. Our words and deeds must conform with the solutions of the collective. We should not be indulgent or yield to issues of principle characteristics while consistently respecting and listening to the ideas of other comrades.

We still have many tasks to carry out in a short period of time between now and the eighth national party congress. It is required that each comrade of the party Central Committee work urgently to prepare all domains for the congress satisfactorily.

On the one hand, it is necessary to understand thoroughly the spirit of this party Central Committee plenum and the party's resolutions and directives on guiding the convening of party organization congresses at various levels in provinces and municipalities and of those affiliated to the party Central Committee; on the other hand, efforts must be made to study, analyze, and make preparations for the eighth national party congress.

We are convinced that with the high sense of responsibility and the gained experiences, with the recent preparations, and with the results of this party Central Committee plenum, we will be able to fulfill all tasks satisfactorily and make the best preparations to ensure splendid success for the eighth national party congress.

On behalf of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, I hereby close the seventh party Central Committee's 10th Plenum.

SRV: Central Committee Issues Communique on 10th Plenum

BK2104141196 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Apr 96

["Text" of a communique issued by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee in Hanoi; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 10th plenum of the seventh party Central Committee was held in Hanoi from 12 to 20 April 1996. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi presided over the plenum.

1. The plenum discussed and decided on the views contributed toward the draft documents of the national party congress by participants in grass-roots and upper-level party organization congresses; enlarged conferences of provincial and city party committees and party committees directly under the management of the Party Central Committee; conferences of mass organizations, intellectuals, scientists, and literature and art workers; the enlarged conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; and the refresher courses for high-ranking cadres at the Ho Chi Minh National Political Institute as well as by individual letters to the party Central Committee.

The plenum requested that the Political Bureau use the results of the party Central Committee's vote on the contents of the draft documents and the views to be contributed by the upcoming congresses of party organizations directly under the party Central Committee and by the entire people to supplement, amend, or perfect the documents to be presented to the eighth party congress.

2. The plenum discussed the preparations for congress personnel to enable the party to select cadres with virtue and talent to meet the requirements of the stage of accelerating the industrialization and modernization program designed to make the people rich and the nation powerful, bring about justice and civilization in society, and firmly advance the country toward socialism.

The plenum is very important now that the preparations for the eighth national party congress are under way. The plenum stressed: Because little time is left before the eighth national party congress, party committees at all levels must see to it that provincial and city party organization congresses and congresses of party organizations directly under the party Central Committee are organized in a very adequate manner. Steps must be taken to enable people from all walks of life to contribute suggestions to the party on how to formulate correct lines and policies for the new stage of national development.

In wrapping up the plenum, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi emphatically said: It is our belief that with a high sense of responsibility and past experiences, as well as with the preparations made so far and with tasks that will be carried out following this plenum, we will be able to make adequate preparations for the eighth party congress to end in success.

SRV Essay: Armed Forces Need Party Leadership

BK2004143596 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Essay by Nguyen Van Tiep in the "Topical Talks" feature of Vietnam People's Army program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order for the Communist Party of Vietnam to fufill its historic role, it is essential that it organize and closely lead the Vietnamese People's Armed Forces [VPAF]. The VPAF are the armed forces of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The party leadership over the armed forces is the most fundamental principle in the building of the VPAF. In many key issues, to ensure the building of a permanently strong and competent armed forces, President Ho Chi Minh placed the party leadership over the armed forces as a first priority.

At present, the class struggle and the national struggle are going on in a very harsh, fierce, and complicated manner. The renovation initiated by our party has recorded very important achievements. However, we are also facing new challenges and dangers. The negativism of the market structure is having a constant effect on the conscience and ideology of our military cadres and soldiers.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and socialist countries in Eastern Europe, the imperialist forces have intensified their opposition and sabotage to eliminate socialism in the entire world, Vietnam being a key area. In order to achieve that goal, they are earnestly carrying out the conspiracy of peaceful evolution in our country. In particular, they are exploiting the normalization of relations with Vietnam for deeper penetration to oppose and sabotage us in all fields. One of the leading areas on which our enemies are focusing their opposition is our Armed Forces.

The assumption that the military is the national force to fight against foreign invasion but not to carry out the duty of protecting the regime and that the military only bears the nature of the people but not the nature of the workers' class, the demand to depoliticize the Armed Forces, and so forth are in fact wicked tricks to distance the armed forces from the political line of the communist party, to eradicate the party leadership over the armed forces, and to neutralize the armed forces for the execution of dark schemes by the hostile forces.

Meanwhile, in order to meet the requirement of the new situation, the duty of protecting the socialist fatherland carries new demands and contents. The protection of national independence, sovereignty, and integrity is closely connected with the protection of the party, the social regime, and the political security of the nation. Fighting against peaceful renovation and violent subversion becomes an urgent and vital duty and it must be combined with positive fighting in other fields.

At the same time, our Armed Forces must be developed in a revolutionary, regular, competent, and modern direction, for which political building must be considered as a foundation. This situation requires the strengthening of the party leadership over the armed forces more than ever. Whatever the circumstances, the armed forces must always be placed under the party leadership.

The party leads the armed forces with its lines, including the line to build the all-people's national defense system and the line of a people's war and building the people's armed forces. In the current revolutionary stage, in order to strengthen the party leadership over the armed forces, first of all, on the basis of the party's platform and lines, it is necessary to continue the concretization, supplementation, and development of the military line to match the requirement of the new revolutionary duty.

The military line must aim to gradually increase the capacity of national defense and security, firmly build the all-people's national defense system, and connect the all-people national defense front to the people's security front. The military line must also aim to improve the combined strength of all military units and build a revolutionary, regular, skillful, and modern army able to work with all the people to deter and frustrate the strategy of peaceful evolution and violent subversion of the hostile forces and maintain the situation of peace, stability, and development for the goal of a prosperous population, a powerful nation, and an equitable and civilized society. At the same time, the armed forces must be ready to work with the entire people to crush all imperialist invasions and successfully execute the people's war for national protection.

In order to closely lead the armed forces in all circumstances, our party has defined the leadership principle over the armed forces. The party leadership is resolute and earnest in all fields. In the current revolutionary stage, the party must satisfactorily carry out this principle to increase its leadership over the armed forces and ensure that the leadership over the armed forces always rests with the party.

The Communist Party of Vietnam is the only body to lead the VPAF. The leadership cannot be shared with any individuals or other political forces. Therefore, we need to fight against the demand to depoliticize the armed forces and conceptions and manifestations of disregarding or loosening the party leadership over the armed forces.

In order to closely lead the armed forces, in conjunction with the establishment and execution of the management principle, the party also needs to set up a leadership structure over the armed forces. The party leadership structure over the armed forces is not something that is inflexible. A capable structure must be always amenable to the development of revolutionary duties and military duties and organization.

In its operations, our party has constantly built, supplemented, and perfected its leadership structure over the armed forces, thus greatly contributing to the consolidation and strengthening of the party leadership over the armed forces and ensuring the preserving and development of the nature of the workers' class and the popular and national characteristics in the armed forces.

Today, in order to strengthen the party leadership over the armed forces, it is necessary to satisfactorily perfect the party leadership structure over the armed forces. The party not only leads the armed forces with its lines, guidelines, and policies, but it also exercises its leadership over the armed forces through the sytem of party organizations, the commanding organization system, the system of political organs, political cadres at all levels, and mass organizations in military grassroots units. Each organization and each person in an organization has a separate role, position, duty, and function. However, they all work in the structure of the party leadership over the armed forces. They are all closely related and linked together. They create favorable conditions for one another to contribute to the firm maintenance and strengthening of the party leadership. If all these organizations are strongly built and satisfactorily working together in conformity with their duties and functions, they will help to build the armed forces in all fields and ensure the successful execution of all duties by the armed forces. Therefore, highly developing the dynamism in every organization and individual in the structure is a fundamental conception that needs to be fully understood in the process to perfect the party leadership over the armed forces.

Now, the requirement to satisfactorily implement the party leadership over the armed forces demands of all party organizations, military commanding systems, political organs, mass organizations, and individuals and cadres working in these places that they firmly maintain the party leadership, increase the responsibility of the management, and create an atmosphere of democracy and discipline so that military cadres and soldiers can truly exercise their right of mastery. These people must be directed to understand, discuss, carry out, and control their activities within their function in the political, military, cultural, or economic fields.

The abuse of power by any side to lower the party leadership, the high centralism and unanimity of the armed forces, and the dynamism and consciousness of military cadres and soldier must be prevented and overcome. The structure is not only to guarantee the position and role of party organizations but also to avoid lessening the party and political work, because the nature of the party and political work is the leadership activity, which begins with the party leadership over the armed forces. Whenever there is party leadership, there must also be the party and political work to consolidate, preserve, and strengthen the party leadership over the armed forces.

Therefore, another very important issue in the strengthening of the party leadership over the armed forces is that we must take care to build strong, clean military party committees with a high level of fighting power together with the upgrading of the efficiency of the party and political work. First of all, it is necessary to renovate and enhance the fighting power and the efficiency of the ideological work, firmly strengthen the party's ideological front in the armed forces to ensure total loyalty to the party, the fatherland, and the people by the armed forces.

The armed forces must have a firm political stance, be determined in the party's goal and ideal, and be confident and resolute in successfully carrying out the party's renovation line. The armed forces must also have high determination to satisfactorily fulfill all duties entrusted by the party and always stand firm against all challenges.

At the same time, the armed forces must become a strong fortress in the fight against incorrect conceptions and ideologies and must protect Marxist-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh thought, and the party's line, guidelines, and policies. All phenomena of deviation, skepticism, and lack of vigilance in some party officials and members must be overcome. More efforts must be exerted to strengthen the organization system and increase the knowledge, capacity, fighting power, and creativity of all party organizations, especially the grassroots party organizations.

The capacity for political leadership among party organizations must be heightened to ensure that their management guidelines and measures are practical, correct, and timely. These guidelines and measures must be thoroughly in conformity with the party's line, guideline, and policy. They must be also suitable to the duty of the armed forces and the practical situation of the military unit. These guidelines and measures must not be introduced in a general and unspecified manner.

The principle of democratic centralism must be satisfactorily executed. The operational quality of party organizations, especially at the party chapter level, must be heightened. Criticism and self-criticism must be accelerated. The process of issuing resolutions and the execution of the resolutions should be revamped in a scientific manner. In the building of grassroots party organizations, it is necessary to rally efforts to build completely strong and clean party committees, gradually increase the percentage of the outstandingly strong and clean party committees and chapters, and end all feeble ones.

In order to build strong and clean grassroots party organizations, it is vital to concentrate on the upgrading of the quality of party members, starting with the upgrading of the fighting character and the exemplary role in ideology, morality, lifestyle, and actions to observe Uncle Ho's teaching that a good party chapter is due to strong party members. The building of the contingent of party members must be closely linked with the building of the contingent of party officials, which is the core force of the party organization. The contingent of party officials must be built up to adequate numbers in an appropriate structure with good quality, and a fine succession between different generations of party officials must be ensured so as to provide a firm basis to build the really revolutionary, regular, skillful, and modern armed forces to satisfactorily fulfill all duties in all situations.

In order to build strong, clean military party committees with a high level of fighting power, in the current situation the party control work must be intensified. The party control work must be considered as a regular duty and a working function of all party committees at all levels. In carrying out the part control work, it is necessary to pay attention to the control of party organizations and party members respecting the execution of all duties and the observance of leadership principles and the party's regulations. The attitudes, conceptions, and lifestyles of party members must also be checked. All unqualified party members must be quickly expelled from the party. The military security protection work must be satisfactorily carried out. Special attention must be paid to improve the quality of the internal political protection work, especially in the current situation. The mass mobilization work must be strengthened. The heightening of the quality of the party's public relations vis a vis the armed forces is a very important issue, contributing to the construction of strong, clean military party committees.

More than ever, it is necessary to improve the quality and efficiency of the party and political work in all duties, especially training military cadres and soldiers to thoroughly understand the party's line, guidelines, and policies and the duties of the armed forces and their military units. The military cadres and soldiers must clearly realize the enemy, heighten vigilance, strictly observe the regulations on combat readiness, and satisfactorily outline and execute planning on the party and political work in the fight against peaceful evolution, with proper training for unexpected attacks.

The leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam over the VPAF is the main factor deciding all the developments and victories of the armed forces. In the current fighting, which is without guns, under the firm leadership of the party, our Armed Forces has been constantly growing and developing. Our Armed Forces will firmly maintain and develop the nature of the workers' class and always be loyal to the party and brotherly to the people, accomplishing all duties, overcoming all difficulties, and defeating all enemies.

Australia

Australia: Marchers Urge End to Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

BK2004141096 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 20 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than 10,000 people have marched through Sydney calling for an end to Israeli attacks on Southern Lebanon. The marchers stopped briefly outside the Israeli Consulate in the center of the city chanting "We want peace." Speakers also called for an end to the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, in Western Australia bricks have been used to smash glass doors with the Star of David emblem on them in the Perth suburb of Mount Lawley. The vice president of the West Australian Council of Jury, Ron Samuel, said the attack could have been provoked by the Israeli military action in Lebanon.

[Begin Samuel recording] Of course, we find it absolutely abhorring that this kind of thing can happen in a city like Perth, but on the other hand as there are two occasions today — the first being the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth and the second being the events that are recurring at the moment in the Middle East. I can't say it is entirely unexpected. [end recording]

Australia: Editorial on Possible 'Double Dissolution' of Parliament

BK1904054796 Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Mr. Howard's Senate Block" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prospect of another Federal election next year would fill most people with dread but many commentators are now suggesting it is a real possibility. This is because the Howard government, despite its massive majority in the House of Representatives, is still two short of having a majority in the Senate. If Labor, the Democrats and the Greens combine in the Senate to reject important government legislation - such as the proposed industrial relations reforms and the sale of part of Telstra - Mr. Howard may find himself very tempted to call on the governor general and obtain a double dissolution of the Parliament.

An early election for the House of Representatives and for the full Senate would be an attractive option for Mr. Howard. There is an outside chance that the government could win the minimum 39 senators it needs to ensure its legislation is passed by the new Senate. It is more likely, however, that it would still be tantalisingly short of a Senate majority. While resentment towards the former Labor government will still be reasonably fresh in voters' minds in 12 months' time, the political climate will have been changed by the promised tough spending cuts in the budget later this year. The pain this will inflict in many areas will probably prevent the government winning control of the Senate and is also likely to see its Lower House majority reduced. But it is most unlikely that Mr. Howard would be risking office by calling an early election.

The attraction for Mr. Howard of a double dissolution, therefore, is not so much to win control of the Senate but to establish a clear majority in the combined Houses of Parliament. This would enable the disputed legislation to be passed at a joint sitting of the House of Representatives and the Senate as was the case for the Whitlam government in 1974. If Mr. Howard has warehoused sufficient disputed items of legislation, all of which have met the criteria specified by section 57 of the Constitution, the current arguments about the extent of his mandate will largely become irrelevant.

Will the very real threat of a double dissolution affect the behaviour of the minor parties in the Senate? If self-interest was the only motivation, it would probably make the Democrats even more obstructionist. In a double dissolution the quota for election to the Senate in each State is nearly halved - from around 14.3 per cent of the vote to around 7.7 per cent. Although there is always the precedent of the Democratic Labour Party to be wary of - it was wiped out in the double dissolution in 1974 despite the lower quota - it is likely that the worst the Democrats would fare would be to see their numbers reduced from seven to six. The two Green senators, however, are in a different situation. They risk being squeezed out by the polarisation caused by a double dissolution. That will be a factor they will have to bear in mind when they consider legislation, particularly the Telstra legislation, since there will be pressure from some conservation groups to pass it because of its linkage with the proposed environmental package. And the Democrats will have to think further than their own short-term interests. It will dawn on them that disputed legislation will be passed at a joint sitting. Would it not be preferable to co-operate with the Government and seek to negotiate amendments on the issues that concern them? This will be a real test of Senator Kernot's leadership.

New Zealand

New Zealand: Impact of Europe's IGC Outcome on Wellington Viewed

BK1904124896 Christchurch THE PRESS in English 15 Apr 96

[Article by Stuart McMillan — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] was at its rampant height many New Zealanders knew quite of lot about Europe and its institutions. British visitors were sometimes amazed when they went to a back-country farm in New Zealand to find the family highly informed about what was happening in Europe.

To some extent that was understandable because Europe and its institutions posed a considerable threat to this country. Britain's accession to the European Economic Community in 1972 was as defining an experience as this country had had.

As the excesses of the Common Agricultural Policy, which limited access for New Zealand agricultural exports in Europe and which subsidised European exports to other markets, became manifest the policy tended to dominate New Zealand's thinking about Europe.

Negotiations with what is now the European Union continue but are no longer punctuated by dramatic dashes to Europe by a New Zealand Minister to reinforce the struggles of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to protect some vital trade. The Uruguay Round and the World Trade Organisation [WTO] have changed the rules of the game. Economic survival is no longer the spur to understanding Europe.

Yet there are huge changes going on in Europe, some of which will affect New Zealand directly, some indirectly. The most immediate threat to New Zealanders is that Europe is considering imposing a restriction on the length of time New Zealanders may stay Europe-wide. At the moment the restriction is usually three months in a single country, but New Zealanders can go to another European country and obtain a three-month stay there. The restriction would mean that New Zealanders would not be able to stay in Europe for more than three months in total.

The forum in which the decisions will be taken is the Intergovernmental Conference [IGC], known in the EU tradition of spawning initials for organisations as the IGC. It began meeting at the end of March and the meeting is expected to last for about a year.

One of the biggest decisions will be about the decision-making process itself. Like many organisations, the EU prefers consensus. But if unanimity is what is required, in practice this means that one nation can have a veto. The European Union now has 15 members (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, and Britain) and finding unanimity is often not possible. If the EU cannot achieve unanimity the result will usually be a stalemate.

One of the major issues before the IGC is qualified and weighted majority voting. Just how the votes will be weighted (the larger countries do not want to be dictated to by the smaller countries) and what issues will be decided by majority voting are likely to be points of dissension at the meeting. For instance, Britain does not want majority voting on common foreign policy decisions.

The voting might seem a purely administrative and internal matter for the EU but it is not without significance for New Zealand. New Zealand once had quite a stake in the power of veto. When Britain negotiated with the rest of the European Community for access for butter or sheepmeat on New Zealand's behalf, Britain's willingness to hold out served New Zealand's interests well. However, New Zealand now negotiates directly with the European Union and while it still appreciates Britain's support, it is not so heavily dependent on that support.

New Zealand's interests are generally best served by a Europe which is capable of making decisions rather than one which is in a permanent state of stalemate. Thus the weighted voting path would probably serve New Zealand's interests best.

Changes in power among Europe's institutions also have the potential to affect New Zealand. Some countries want the Council of Ministers to retain most of the power; others favour more power going to the European Parliament or the European Commission itself. Just how the relationships will eventually work themselves out remains to be seen.

The European Parliament takes an interest in a wide range of subjects, including many social issues such as indigenous peoples, human rights, and industrial legislation. It is sometimes fairly free with its advice and measures. There have already been conflicts between the European Parliament and various foreign governments which consider that their national sovereignty and the right to make their own laws is being questioned.

The European Parliament might take to itself a role of being the world conscience and hold hearings on all sorts of matters. As a consequence, those rows might proliferate. Some balance has to be struck. But a European Parliament with vastly increased powers might mean that the European Union would become stalemated, more intent on striking a position than setting about its own or world problems.

The most direct and obvious change in Europe likely to affect New Zealand is over the proposed enlargement of the EU. The organisation might eventually have another dozen members. The EU has agreed to hold membership talks with Malta and Cyprus after the IGC ends. Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are waiting in the wings. Slovenia at the moment is off the stage, but making noises.

All the issues of decision making will be compounded as the EU grows. When Poland joins it will mean that a large agricultural country will come into the CAP and create a demand for even more resources. The optimist would argue that the demands of Poland will finally be the straw that breaks the CAP's back and that a more rational system of agriculture in Europe will prevail. The pessimist would point to the seeming infinite capacity of the CAP to survive and suspect that European countries would be prepared to pay more.

Either way New Zealand is bound to be affected. A slimmed CAP might mean more opportunities for New Zealand agricultural trade. A fatter CAP might mean a more aggressive stance against outsiders, including New Zealand. The EU has already announced some measures to control the CAP and to meet WTO requirements, so there is some reason to be optimistic.

The development of a common foreign and defence policy will also be a major part of the IGC deliberations. The difficulty Europe had for a long time in deciding how to cope with the Bosnian conflict had a direct effect on New Zealand. The issue became one for the United Nations and New Zealand was among the countries which contributed to the UN force in Bosnia.

Whether Europe is decisive, how Western Europe will treat Russia, the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and how widely Europe will try to apply its security and foreign policies all have the potential to affect New Zealand, though probably indirectly.

There is some reason for scepticism over European capabilities. Europe itself seems incapable of sorting out the differences between Greece and Turkey, let alone more dangerous situations.

Europe cannot fail to have a powerful influence on the rest of the world. The conference this year will not solve its problems but it might clarify the most likely ways in which Europe will develop and exert that influence.

New Zealand: ACT Leader Says MMP Affecting Foreign Investment

BK1904133796 Christchurch THE PRESS in English 16 Apr 96

[Uattributed Report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Singaporean company has pulled out of a $400 million [New Zealand dollars] investment in New Zealand because of concern at the growing popularity of New Zealand First's restrictive immigration and foreign investment policies, ACT [Association of Consumers and Taxpayers] New Zealand leader Richard Prebble says.

The conglomerate was to have invested in a major construction project, but last week decided to invest in a Brisbane project instead, Mr Prebble said yesterday.

He did not identify the investor, but said the New Zealand partners in the project had told him of the decision.

He said Singaporean businessmen were discreet and would never go public with their reasons, but he had no doubt "they are reading Winston Peters's speeches, and do not like what they read".

Mr Prebble warned that MMP [mixed member proportional electoral system] was leading to instability, particularly for investors.

Financial analysts could see from the polls that New Zealand could have "an unstable Left-wing coalition of Labour, the Alliance, and New Zealand First" after the election.

The market disapproved of Labour's plans to modify the Employment Contracts Act, was "quite properly spooked by virtually the entire Alliance policy range", and was "specifically anxious about Winston Peters's attacks on property rights".

The Singaporean company was the latest example of reaction to the instability of MMP since August, Mr Prebble said.

"This situation is serious. It is real. It is happening now," he said. "Last year the AMP, the largest single investor in New Zealand, publicly announced that because of MMP it would not increase its investment in this country. Conservatively, that is $200 million of investment that will not occur."

Mr Prebble said New Zealand had a capital shortage and needed foreign investment to grow and produce jobs. While countries such as Australia were becoming more attractive to overseas investors after the election of a Liberal Government, "the rise of New Zealand First makes New Zealand seem very unpredictable", he said.

Mr Prebble predicted that if a Labour-Alliance-New Zealand First government took power, mortgage rates would quickly rise to 20 per cent.

While the pain would be "real and deep, it would be brief", he said. "Any Government would have to do a U-turn so fast their heads would be spinning ... "

New Zealand Report: Tourism Helps Turn Balance-of-Payments Tide

BK2004142196 Christchurch THE PRESS in English 19 Apr 96

[Unattributed Report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Improved tourism earnings have led to an improvement in the balance of payments, with latest figures showing the deficit at 4.3 per cent of GDP.

For the December 1995 year, the current account deficit stood at $3.795 billion [New Zealand dollars]. For the September 1995 quarter the deficit was 4.5% of GDP, while for the December 1994 year the deficit was 3% of GDP.

Statistics New Zealand said the December quarter figure confirmed the reversal of the previous downward trend in the current account deficit.

In the December 1995 quarter itself, the deficit was $1.077b [billion]. This was an improvement of $572 million on the preceding quarter and $130m [million] better than the December 1994 quarter.

The improvement in the current account balance came through invisibles, which increased by $436m, with the main contributor being tourism.

However, this was partly offset by a $246m worsening in the net investment income deficit, reflecting a rise in returns to overseas investors from their New Zealand investments.

The Finance Minister, Bill Birch, said the improvement in the current account was in line with Government and market expectations.

However, Federated Farmers disputed the figures, claiming that the annual deficit should be $5.7b. This was because balance of payments figures should exclude the $1.9b of one-off capital flows from incoming migrants.

International Monetary Fund standards required that migrant capital flows be included in the capital account, not the current account.

International investors needed to be told the full story and farmers were entitled to an exchange rate that honestly reflected New Zealand's international competitiveness, said the federation's spokesman, Malcolm Bailey.

Mr Birch's office agreed that IMF standards for calculating the balance of payments had changed.

About half of the 160 nations which produced comparable statistics had made the change.

Rather than introduce the changes piecemeal, Statistics New Zealand planned to introduce them in one exercise to ensure minimum disruption to the series.

Another Beehive source said that Federated Farmers was simply trying to scare down the exchange rate.

Alliance leader Jim Anderton said the balance of payments position remained precarious and was likely to further deteriorate when the tax cuts came on stream.

New Zealand Minister Renounces Use of Antipersonnel Mines

LD2204103996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Zealand has formally renounced the use of antipersonnel land mines and said it would work for a world ban on the weapons. Defense Minister Paul East said the New Zealand military had not used the weapons since the Korean War in the 1950s and held no stocks. He said the ban would only be reconsidered in the event of extraordinary circumstances in which New Zealand lives were at risk or there was a major threat to security. Mr. East said the Defense Force would continue to train in the use of mines so that it could contribute to international mine-clearance efforts.

New Zealand currently has military staff involved in mine- clearance in Angola, Cambodia, and Mozambique. Australia last week announced that it would suspend the use of mines by its armed forces and support a global ban on their production, use or sale.

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